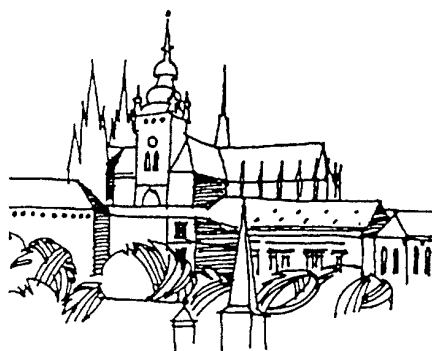


**Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic**



8th VIENNA OPT(R)ODE WORKSHOP

Book of abstracts

19990122 134



Prague, October 7–8, 1998

8th VIENNA OPT(R)ODE WORKSHOP

Prague, Czech Republic, October 7–8, 1998

Organized by:

Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics, Acad. Sci. CR, Prague
Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University, Prague

Sponsored by:

Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics, Acad. Sci. CR, Prague, Czech Republic
Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic
European Research Office of the U. S. Army, United Kingdom
Engineering Academy, Prague, Czech Republic
ASAC – Austrian Society for Analytical Chemistry, Austria
Devětsil JST s.r.o, Plzeň, Czech Republic
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Edited by:
V. Matějec, M. Chomát

Published by:
Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics,
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,
Prague

Printed by:
NEOSET, Prague

ISBN 80 – 901658 – 9 - 3



**In Memoriam Robert Kellner
(1945-1997)**

By announcing the 8th Vienna Opt(r)ode Workshop the undersigned have the sad duty to inform the scientific community that our friend and colleague Robert Kellner died at the age of 52, on October 8, 1997. His untimely death has shocked all who knew this excellent scientist with an extraordinary active personality.

Robert Kellner was born in Vienna, Austria, on January 5, 1945. After graduating in Chemistry from the Vienna University of Technology with a Ph.D. in 1971, he decided to pursue an university career, achieved his „Habilitation“ in 1975 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. H. Malissa and was appointed Professor at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry of this university in 1978.

Robert Kellner had an extremely successful scientific career which is documented in over 200 publications, numerous, worldwide lectures and in the organization of outstanding international conferences (e.g. ICOFTS 87, EUCMOS 92, AIRS III 98, Vienna Opt(r)ode Workshop Series). His strong commitment to teaching analytical chemistry found its culmination in the conception of the EUROCURRICULUM and the textbook on „Analytical Chemistry“ which was published by Wiley-VCH in spring 1998. Robert Kellner has also contributed enormously to the scientific community by his work within the Working Party of Analytical Chemistry (WPAC) of the Federation of European Chemical Societies. The very fruitful development of the WPAC during the last years as well as their transformation into a Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) can to a substantial degree be traced back to Robert Kellner's initiatives.

All our further activities in proceeding with the organization of AIRS III will be dedicated to make this symposium a successful scientific event in memory of Robert Kellner.

The initiation of the Vienna Opt(r)ode Workshop Series in 1988 together with Prof. Dr. Otto Wolfbeis followed by the first meeting in Vienna 1989 reflects impressively the spirit and enthusiasm of Robert Kellner. Hence, all our further activities in proceeding with the organization of this 8th symposium will be dedicated to ensure a successful scientific event in memory of Robert Kellner as we will always remember him - a hard working scientist, a reliable colleague and a true friend.

Otto S. Wolfbeis

Boris Mizaikoff

Miroslav Chomát

Foreword

The 8th Vienna Opt(r)ode Workshop is the continuation of a highly successful workshop series started by Prof. Robert Kellner and Prof. Otto S. Wolfbeis in 1989. The 8th Workshop, dedicated to the memory of Prof. Kellner, will be for the first time held in Prague in the Czech Republic. Similarly to the previous Workshops, it will deal with detection systems employing optical sensing principles used in modern Analytical Chemistry. Two directions can be seen in this field, namely, search for new chemical transducers with higher and higher sensitivity as well selectivity and the development of advanced optical techniques capable of fully exploiting the potential of these transducers.

The general aim of the Workshop in Prague is to show the state-of-the-art of the two directions mentioned above. As at the previous Workshops, invited lectures and contributed posters will be presented. We believe that they both will contribute to the main topics of the 8th Workshop by giving both survey and showing recent results and directions.

The invited lectures presented by the invited speakers have been arranged into two sections reflecting basically the main topics of the Workshop. The contributed posters then further develop the subjects of the invited lectures and provide a basis for fruitful discussions among the Workshop participants. The organisers hope that the abstracts in the Proceedings, printed from the received camera-ready texts, may contribute to this discussion.

Finally, the organisers would like to thank you for participating in the Workshop, presenting the contributions and wish you to enjoy the meeting. We also thank the sponsoring organisations for supporting the 8th Vienna Workshop in Prague.

Miroslav Chomát

Otto S. Wolfbeis

Vlastimil Matějec

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Sensitivity of Fluorescence Based Fibre Optic Hybridization Assays

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The determination of specific nucleic acid sequences within a DNA-sample of unknown composition is of increasing interest in all life sciences and for many applications as well in clinical diagnostics and as in many other analytical concerns. Molecular biologists therefore employ the method of hybridisation: A labelled oligonucleotide of several ten to hundred nucleotides (nt) length, which is complementary to the sequence of interest, is added to the denatured, i.e. single stranded, sample DNA. The first task is to assay a specific sequence within a sample, e.g. a virus, with high sensitivity. The second task concerns the comparison of an unknown sample sequence with a known one, e.g. looking for mutations, this is selectivity.

Hybridization is usually performed in combination with labels: One of the single strands, DNA or RNA, is labeled and catches the complementary sequence, the target, out of a sample, which again may be DNA or RNA. This type of hybridization assay ("gene-probe-assay") is one of the most specific assays in the molecular biologists laboratory (1); highest sensitivity is achieved in conjunction with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (2), or an other DNA amplifying method (3), combined with isotope labeling or with enzyme labels additionally enhanced by chemiluminescence (4). However, getting the information is still time consuming and laborious. To combine this powerful technique with the sensor approach has been recognized to be very promising since the development of affinity sensors started about 20 years ago, however, it is only very recently that reports are given on successful hybridization on sensor surfaces; for review see e.g. (5).

There are two possibilities of making use of fluorescence for DNA determination: Fluorescence labels and fluorescence indicators. While labels do not interfere with the DNA-DNA interaction, indicators specifically bind to DNA preferably with the doublestranded form, influencing the binding strength of the hybrid. This might be used to enhance the formation of the hybrids leading to more sensitive detection schemes.

The fiber optic fluorescence sensor is based on the total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) technique (6); the device used here is an advancement of a previously described apparatus (7); excitation of the fluorescence is performed from outside, perpendicular to the sensing fibre axis, and only emission light is collected through the fiber via the evanescent field effect. This approach avoids any laborious adjustment and has the potential of being adapted to any other measuring device or processing machine, e.g. a thermo cycler. In an alternative approach we demonstrated the use of planar waveguides for multianalytical measurements.

The binding of DNA oligonucleotides to immobilized DNA-targets using a fibre optic fluorescence sensor is demonstrated with the example of 13-mer oligonucleotides. The oligomers were attached to the core of a multimode fibre. The complementary sequence was

either end-labelled (with Fluorescein) or the formation of hybrids was detected by use of a fluorescent doublestrand specific DNA ligand (intercalator). The evanescent field was employed to distinguish between bound and not bound species. The template DNA-oligomer was immobilized either by direct coupling to the activated sensor surface or using the avidin-biotin bridge.

By virtue of the labelled oligomers it was possible to determine kinetic constants as well for DNA-DNA (8) hybrids as for the formation of PNA-DNA (Peptide Nucleic Acids, PNA) heterodimers. Parallel measurements with label-free detection means ensures that the influence of the label is neglectable. Single base mismatches in the target sequence were detected. Using a fluorescence indicator, which intercalates to the doublestranded DNA, enhancement of sensitivity is achieved of about 3 orders of magnitude. This effect is due to a shift in binding equilibrium since some intercalators stabilize the double helix. Thus a lower detection limit of the sensor of 70 fM (7.5 attomoles) was obtained (9).

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Biosensors with Surface Immobilized Protein Networks

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Biosensors based on the affinity binding of analytes to specific bioreceptors immobilized on the surface of an optical transducer, such as surface plasmon resonance (SPR) sensor, grating coupler (GC), resonant mirror, and various types of interferometers, are of increasing interest for real-time detection of analytes without the use of labelled reagents. A common principle of these devices consists in modification of the transducer optics by changes of optical parameters of medium adjacent to the transducer surface via interaction with evanescent light wave penetrating into the adjacent medium. The intensity of evanescent light decays exponentially with distance from the transducer surface. From this point of view the most sensitive detection of the analyte binding is right at the transducer surface. A standard approach is to immobilize receptors directly onto the surface by physical adsorption or covalent bonding. Such arrangement of the receptors is not the most convenient for practical applications: (a) In biological media, receptors immobilized by only physical adsorption are replaced by molecules with a higher affinity to the surface. (b) The activity of some receptors is decreased due to conformation changes induced by their interaction with the surface or due to a tight receptor attachment to the surface with an orientation unfavourable for binding the analytes. (c) The number of receptors limited by their two-dimensional arrangement on the surface may not be sufficient to provide a measurable optical response for small analytes because a mass added to the sensor surface by binding the analytes to the receptors is low. (d) A non specific sensor response caused by the adsorption of analytes and other compounds on the bare surface in between immobilized receptors and/or by the interaction of receptors with compounds different from the analyte, e.g. immunoreactions in blood plasma and blood.

An immobilization technique based on the consecutive adsorption^{1,2} of proteins makes possible to prepare assemblies consisting of a controlled number of molecular layers of various proteins arranged according to a predetermined architecture. The multilayers are formed by alternating adsorption of polyanions and positively charged proteins below their isoelectric point and/or adsorption of polycations and negatively charged proteins above their isoelectric point followed with covalent crosslinking of the proteins. Polyelectrolytes are subsequently washed out from the crosslinked protein assembly by rinsing it with a buffer in which the net charge of proteins is inverted. So far the assemblies have been prepared on surfaces of germanium reflection element for IR ATR³, gold SPR sensors⁴, Ti(Si)O₂ and Ta₂O₅ grating couplers³, Ta₂O₅ on gold SPR fibre sensors⁵, polystyrene ELISA⁴ plates, and various polymers^{1,2}. Crosslinked multilayer assemblies are stable, screen completely the sensor surface and, in general, they can provide the closest packing of immobilized bioreceptors in the three-dimensional network of eligible thickness.

The capacity of assembly to bind analytes depends on the analyte ability to diffuse into the receptor network and to find enough space for the interaction with receptors. Big compounds like antibody-peroxidase conjugates of m.w. 210000 can interact only with the outmost layer of receptors of a crosslinked assembly, while smaller molecules, such as

horseradish peroxidase and human choriogonadotropin (m.w. 44000 and 39000, resp.) can penetrate deeper and interact efficiently with the respective monoclonal antibodies immobilized in two top layers, thus increasing sensitivity of SPR and GC immunosensors. The sensor response to human β_2 microglobulin (HB2M) of m.w. 12600 increased with increasing number of immobilized molecular layers of anti-HB2M indicating that the small antigen diffused in the antibody network. It was possible to facilitate the antigen diffusion and binding by increasing the network flexibility. The later was estimated by measuring the extent of the network reversible expansion induced by changes of charge on antibody molecules.

The coating of a surface with a multilayer antibody assembly decreased the non specific adsorption of foreign compounds from human blood plasma several times in comparison with a monolayer passivated by consequent adsorption of serum albumin, however, the nonspecific response was still too high probably due to immunoreaction of human plasma with the mouse monoclonal antibodies. The response to HB2M decreased only insignificantly while the non specific response to plasma suppressed many times when a crosslinked antibody assembly was overcoated with a top albumin molecular layer. In this case the crosslinked albumin monolayer is permeable for the antigen but it prevents the interaction of big plasma immunoglobulins with the underlying immobilized antibodies.

The fabrication of multilayer assemblies may be a way to the direct detection of small molecules by optical sensors with a bigger number of bioreceptors within the penetration depth of the evanescent wave as well as to medical applications of sensors with suppressed non specific response in blood plasma and blood.

This research has been supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contracts 303/96/1358, and 102/96/1561 and by Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic under contracts OE 04 (1996) ME 082 (1997).

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Materials for Optrodes by Molecular Imprinting-Solvent Vapour Detection and PAHs in Water

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Non-covalent interactions are of great importance in many chemical processes and so also in chemical sensors. Compounds such as cyclodextrins, paracyclophanes or calixarenes, have been successfully used as coatings for chemical sensing via molecular hollows. Their synthesis, however, is rather time consuming and therefore other ways to generate selective sensor coatings have been looked for. A very powerful tool was found in the technique of molecular imprinting. Here the analyte is added to solutions of mono- and multifunctional monomers. Especially, in the case of solvent vapour detection the analyte itself can act both as template and reaction medium. After the polymerization has finished, the analyte molecules are removed either by evaporation or by an extraction process. In this way geometrically and functionally adapted cavities in the polymer are formed, generated to bind the analyte molecules by a reinclusion. Furthermore, a major advantage results by the fact, that the sensor material can be directly polymerized on the transducer devices. In addition the highly linked polymers are insoluble in solvents and therefore chemical sensing in liquids is made possible.

Our work shows the application of molecular imprinting techniques for the optical detection of solvent-vapours in air. The enrichment of the analytes by these molecular hollows occurs according to principles of host-guest chemistry. Besides mass-sensitive measurements this process can be followed by optical labels according to absorbance changes. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are also extracted by imprinted polymers e.g. from drinking water. In this case fluorescence detection is favourably applied.

Two principles of selectivity are realized in optical sensing. In a preequilibrium the analytes are incorporated by concave chemistry due to the molecular cavities of the polymers. This process can be independently followed by mass-sensitive measurements. The optical label then reacts with the analyte preferentially via convex chemistry by a donor-acceptor interaction. For this purpose cholesteric liquid crystals can also be embedded into the molecularly imprinted polymers. In this case selectivity enhancement is possible due to changes of the pitch height of these columnar phases, which is modified by the shape of the intercalated analytes.

Carbenium ions as optical labels were embedded in the polymer. By interaction with an acidic component, e.g. free phenolic groups, these highly coloured ions are stabilized. If solvent molecules are incorporated into the layers the back-reaction occurs and the absorbance is reduced. Molecular imprinting was done with a variety of solvents. In spite of the fact that distinct solvents show the same effect to the pure dye layer imprinting of the polymers makes it possible to tune the sensor response to each analyte of interest.

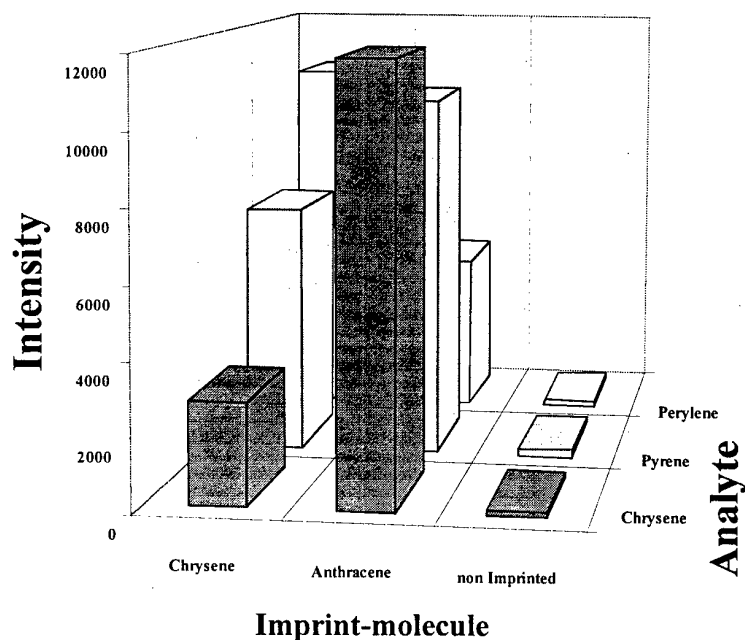
It was even possible to incorporate the dye and the acidic ingredient into sol-gel layers. This is a major advantage as these layers are highly stable against temperature and corrosive chemicals. As they are insoluble in water they could also be used for the detection of organic solvents in drinking water. Again, these layers can be imprinted with

solvents being compatible to the solvolysis necessary for the generation of the glassy layers. By choice of this strategy a tuning to the respective analytes is achieved.

Cholesteric liquid crystals included in polystyrene-films show a similar behaviour. Here the incorporation of organic solvents leads to changes in the pitch-height of the staple and therefore to hypso- or bathochromic effects. Comparing e.g. tetrahydrofuran and ethanol the pure liquid crystals show a quite different response pattern to those included in imprinted polystyrenes. All these results show the great possibilities of molecular imprinting in modifying the sensor responses of optically sensitive materials.

The promising aspects of chemical sensing in liquid phase are shown for the monitoring of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. An on-line detection is desirable as they have a very high carcinogenic potential. These compounds can be selectively characterized by their intensive fluorescence spectra.

This highly sensitive detection even allows to follow traces of PAHs in drinking water down to some ng/l. The PAHs show no pronounced functionality and therefore van der Waals interactions are important, preferentially π - π contributions between the analyte and the molecularly imprinted polymer sensor layer. Therefore, the size of the cavities determines the selectivity and sensitivity of the sensor. The sensor layers were imprinted with a large variety of PAHs. These compounds were then washed out with toluene, leaving hollows of different size. The same procedure can be performed with water if the



respective sulfonates of the PAHs are used as printing molecules. The cavities provide an optimized van der Waals interaction for the analyte of interest. Larger molecules are size-excluded and smaller ones are washed out lacking a tight fit. This idea was proved via fluorescence measurements. It showed e.g. that layers imprinted with anthracene have a better selectivity and a stronger response to anthracene than to pyrene and vice versa.

Changing the procedure of layer preparation showed that it is also possible to get optimized results if the print molecules are slightly smaller than the analyte to be detected as shown in the figure above. Non-imprinted layers show nearly no sensor response, which proves the validity of the molecular imprinting strategy. Summarizing, the enrichment of PAHs by molecularly imprinted polymers shows an appreciable enhancement to the direct observation in solution with respect to selectivity and sensitivity. Furthermore, unspecific quenching is diminished since disturbing molecules are excluded from the interior of the layers.

Optical Detection Methods and Parallel Screening

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An increasing amount of samples in environmental analysis, new approaches in combinatorial chemistry, and an interest in using high throughput screening for pharmaceutical and drugs require fast and simple detection methods. In all these applications the use of affinity or immuno reactions is highly feasible. For this reason, biosensors are used in modern analytics for the detection of molecular interaction which can seen as additional methods to instrumental analysis.

This biomolecular interaction process can be detected either in homogeneous or heterogeneous phase assays partly known from conventional ELISA techniques. For a long time labelled molecules have been used in this type of analysis. However, since labelling may reduce the bio-activity of the compound and prevent e.g. antigen/antibody interaction, direct optical detection is favoured in many application. Quite a few planar optical devices can be used for direct optical detection, such as surface plasmon resonance, grating couplers, resonant mirrors, and reflectometric interference spectroscopy (RIfS). They require a heterogeneous phase test format to allow the detection of biomolecular interaction at the transducer surface. At present, only single channel devices or devices with a few additional channels (up to 16) are available. After a brief review of these optical methods, the speaker will describe in more detail the present realisation of a high throughput screening system using direct optical detection based on RIfS technology which allows the simultaneous monitoring of 96 wells on a special microtiterplate. The application to different interaction measurements such as thrombin-inhibitor and DNA intercalator measurements.

Labelling is necessary when using homogeneous phase assays. In this case either fluorescence quenching or alternatively resonance energy transfer can be used. Both approaches allow measurements in microtiterplates or even miniaturisation down to nanotiterplates. At present the development is aiming at sample volumes in the nanolitre range. Results in the field of homogeneous and heterogeneous assays using labelled samples can be demonstrated in the application in environmental analysis detecting pesticides in multianalyte or multisample assays.

A New Way to Design Self Referenced Fluorescence Sensors

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Fluorescence intensity is the most frequently determined parameter in optical fluorescence sensing and quantitative fluorescence spectroscopy. Its caused by the simplicity of the measuring systems requested for such measurements and the fact that the concentration of a fluorophore correlates with the intensity linearly. On the other hand quantification of intensity signals is frequently complicated due to the effect of fluctuations in the optoelectrical setup, non-defined optical parameters of the sample and loss of light in the optical path. Thus an efficient method to reference this parameter is essential to realise precise measurements.

Generally, ratiometric methods were used to solve this problem. Its includes the dual or multiwavelength measurement of a single fluorophore (e.g. for fluorescein) or the addition of standard luminophores showing different spectral properties than the indicator itself. In both cases either at least two light sources or two detectors are requested, making the instrumentation more complicated than systems requested for single wavelength measurements. Disturbing effects which are wavelength dependent (scattering, light absorption) will be not referenced completely with ratiometric measurements.

We present a new and powerful scheme to reference fluorescence intensity signals. The intensity information will be converted either in a phase shift (measurable in the frequency domain) or a time dependent parameter.

An inert reference luminophore with a long luminescence lifetime (at least in the microsecond range) will be added either to the sample with the fluorophore or in the fluorescent sensing layer itself. Both luminophores must have similar excitation and emission spectra to allow the simultaneous excitation with the same light source and the detection with a single photodetector. The lifetime and the quantum yield of the reference luminophore is not effected by any chemical parameter of the sample, since it is embedded in an inert matrix.

The phase shift is measured at low modulation frequencies (commonly in the range between 80 Hz up to 80 kHz depending on the lifetime of the reference luminophore used) and depends only from the intensity ratio of the two coimmobilised indicators.

The basic principles of the new concept will be presented and examples for self referenced optical sensors will be given.

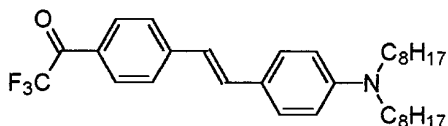
The potential of the new method in quantitative fluorescence spectroscopy and specially in optical sensing is discussed.

Fluoro- and Chromoreactands – A New Class of Dyes for Optical Sensors

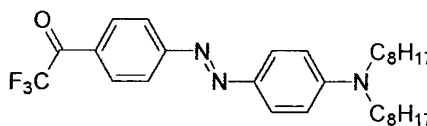
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The new concept using fluoro- and chromoreactands as selective sensing elements operates on the basis of a specific reversible chemical reaction associated with a reversible change of the reactand's spectrum. The change in fluorescence and absorbance is based on the nucleophilic addition of the analyte to the trifluoroacetyl group of the reactand, thus causing a change in the degree of electron delocalisation.



Fluororeactand ETH^T 4004



Chromoreactand ETH^T 4001

Based on these trifluoroacetyl reactands, optical sensors for alcohols, humidity and amines can be prepared. The reactands are incorporated into a thin sensor layer and exposed to sample solutions. The selectivity of the layers to the different species is governed by the addition of a catalyst, by varying the polymer matrix, by using a perm-selective coating, and by the pH of the sample solution.

The ethanol sensor membranes exhibit a linear response to aqueous ethanol in the range of 1 - 50 vol% with a detection limit of 0.5 vol% ethanol. The humidity sensor membranes show a non-linear response to relative humidity with maximum signal changes in the 1% - 40% relative humidity range. The amine-sensitive membranes exhibit high sensitivity to lipophilic primary amines, e.g. aqueous 1-butylamine in the range of 1 - 100 mM with a detection limit of 0.3 mM 1-butylamine.

Optical Sensors for Microtiterplates

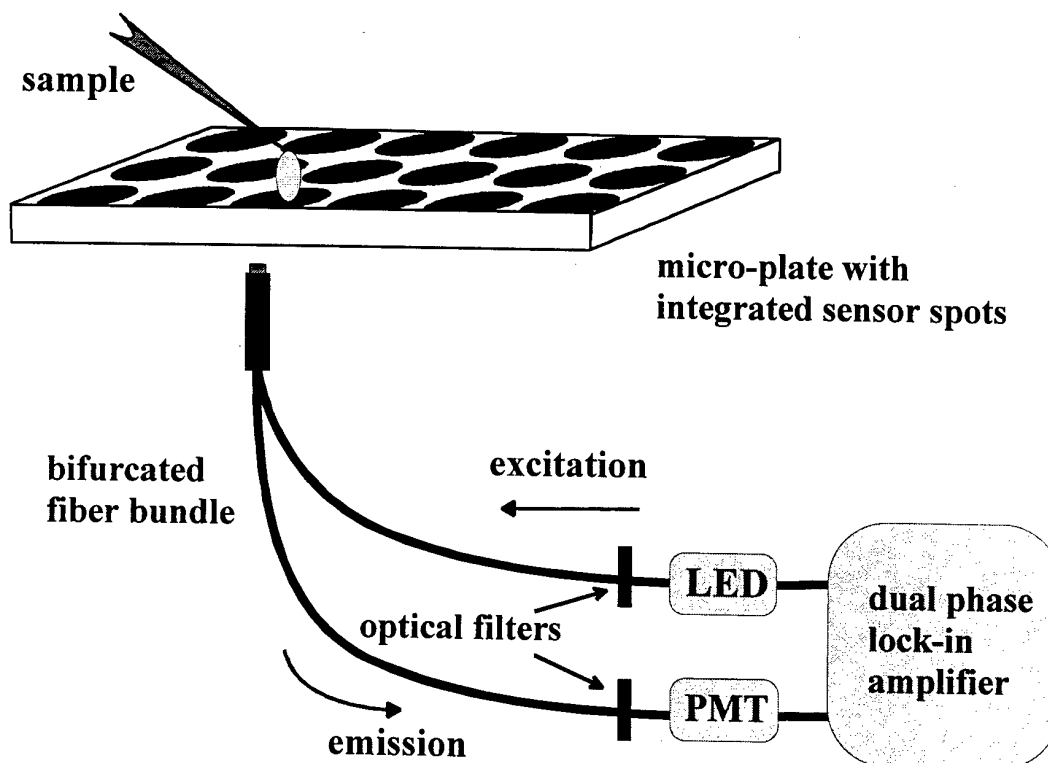
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A variety of materials have been developed in the past years that respond to a (bio)chemical species by a change in their optical properties. Usually, such materials are based on the use of indicator dyes entrapped in a polymer. They may be placed on a planar support to result in so-called planar (spot) sensors, at the tip or the core of a fiber optic light guide, on integrated optical systems or inside capillaries.

Another variation of the use of such materials is its combination with microtiterplate ("microplate") technology. Microplates are widely used in routine analysis and diagnosis because they allow numerous assays to be performed in short time, require small amounts of reagents only, and allow the analytical system to be calibrated in regular intervals. Microplate technology makes efficient use of laboratory roboters.

We have combined the features of microplate technology with those of planar sensors by placing fluorescent chemical sensors in the form of thin layers at the bottom of microplate wells. The sensor "cocktail" (i.e., the solution of the chemically sensitive material in a solvent) was placed on the bottom of the wells, and the solvent left for evaporation (Fig. 1).



Two major kinds of applications are evident: (a) the rapid measurement of blood gases and electrolytes of a large number of samples using the respective chemical sensors; (b) the monitoring of the time course of biochemical/biological reactions (see the Table).

The use of an oxygen-sensitive layer at the bottom of a microplate may serve as an example of the broad applicability of the approach. A 10- μ m layer was spread on the bottom of the plate along with small quantities of the enzyme glucose oxidase. On addition of a solution of glucose, enzymatic oxidation of glucose leads to depletion of oxygen which is reported by the sensor layer whose fluorescence is monitored from the bottom (Fig. 1). Measurement of luminescence lifetime is the preferred method for sensor interrogation.

Because the analytical information comes from the sensor layer (and not the sample or any components contained therein), the optical properties of the sample do not interfere. This enables the analysis of even strongly colored species such as whole blood. For system calibration, each 10th well is filled with a calibrant solution (containing a known concentration of glucose) which gives a reference signal and can account for temporal and spatial variations.

Aside from enzyme-based assays we have also monitored the course of bacterial activity such as the growth of toxic bacteria in blood and foodstuff. Most bacteria, when growing, consume oxygen and produce carbon dioxide as a result of their metabolic activity. The respective chemical sensors can be applied to monitor such processes. The approach may also be used in tests for sterility, inhibition and activation and hence is considered to be of wide applicability.

Typical optical sensors ("optodes") that have been used in conjunction with microplate technology include those for oxygen, pH, carbon dioxide and ammonia. Typical reactions that may be monitored are summarized in Table 1 which demonstrates the wide scope of the approach. Representative examples will be discussed in some detail.

Table. Chemical species and biological parameters that have been assayed by the combined microplate/optode technology.

<i>measurand(s)</i>	<i>sensor layer for</i>	<i>reaction</i>	<i>remarks</i>
pH, O ₂ , CO ₂	pH, O ₂ , CO ₂	none	measurement in blood
K, Na, Ca, Cl	K, Na, Ca, Cl	none	measurement in blood
glucose	oxygen	oxidation	enzymatic assay
urea	ammonia	hydrolysis by urease	enzymatic reaction produces ammonia
heavy metals	ammonia	hydrolysis of urea by urease	inhibition of the activity of urease by heavy metals
toxic bacteria	oxygen, CO ₂	metabolism	oxygen consumed during growth, CO ₂ produced
sterility	oxygen, CO ₂	bacterial growth	O ₂ decreased in presence of bacteria, CO ₂ increased

NIR Evanescent-Wave Sensing of Hydrocarbons Based on Polymer-Clad Optical Waveguides

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Interactions of analyte molecules with the evanescent field of light guided in optical waveguides are among the most promising sensing principles that can be utilized to develop inexpensive and simple, but nevertheless high-performing chemical sensors. Such sensors can have multiple applications, e.g., for the in-situ and continuous monitoring of chemical compounds in the environment and in process analysis.

They are usually based on the enrichment of analyte molecules in the polymer coating of a waveguide and a spectroscopic measurement of the species extracted into the polymer. The evanescent wave of light conducted in the waveguide penetrates into the polymer and allows to measure changes in light absorption, emission or reflectance that are induced by the analyte molecules by using one of the conventional spectroscopic techniques. A big advantage of this arrangement is that the optical measurement is scarcely disturbed by matrix effects (e.g. background absorption of water in IR measurements, absorption / fluorescence of interfering compounds, stray light due to turbidity).

In the near-infrared (NIR) and Vis spectral range quartz glass optical waveguide technology can be applied, which is far advanced because it has numerous applications in the telecommunications industry. These waveguides compared to waveguides used in the mid-IR range are low-cost materials, have rather low light attenuation (2-6 db/km), good mechanical stability, and are fairly resistant to chemical attack. With these properties in mind research in the field of evanescent wave chemical sensors at the IFIA is focused on the NIR and Vis spectral range and on quartz glass waveguides coated with polysiloxane sensing membranes. With this combination of materials it is possible to design and construct evanescent wave sensors for monitoring of nonpolar hydrocarbons (HCs), e.g., chlorinated hydrocarbons, BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene) aromatic compounds as well as different fuels and mineral oils.

The first sensing device developed at our institute is based on a direct evanescent field absorptiometric (EFA) measurement of the CH 1st overtone vibration bands of HC analytes around 1700 nm. It consists of a polysiloxane-clad quartz glass fiber of 210 μm core diameter and 12 -30 m interaction length, which is coiled on a stainless steel / Teflon support and can be adapted by all-silica optical fibers to commercially available NIR spectrophotometers or to a low-cost filter photometer built up at the IFIA.¹ In combination with a spectrophotometer multicomponent analysis is possible, while the filter photometer provides a sum signal of the extracted HC compounds.

Another sensor that is based on an integrated optical (IO) approach uses the same NIR absorptiometric principle. Here, the EFA sensing element is a planar strip waveguide structure produced by Na^+/Ag^+ ion-exchange in a borosilicate glass substrate, which has interaction lengths with the HC solution of 0.17 up to 0.56 m and $35 \times 20 \mu\text{m}$ dimensions of the light guiding zone.² This waveguide element allows easy deposition of the polymer sensing layer and provides higher mechanical stability compared to the fiber-optic sensor. We could prove, that both lengthening of the waveguide and optimization of the refractive index difference between waveguide and polymer leads to an increased sensitivity. For the IO-sensor UV-cured, acrylated polysiloxanes turned out to be mostly suitable as sensing

membrane. Normalized to the waveguide interaction length an optimized IO sensor is by a factor of 27 more sensitive than the fiber-optic version, as could be shown by a comparison of trichloroethene calibration graphs. On the other hand, because of the smaller waveguide dimensions the photometric noise is higher by a factor of 3 up to 10. Due to this and to the limited maximum waveguide length of around 0.6 m of the IO sensor, at present the fiber-optical sensor yields better limits of detection. Typical LOD values for HCs are in the range of a few $\text{mg} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ for the IO sensor and a few hundred $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ for a 30-m fiber-optical sensor. For both sensors the response times for volatile HC species in aqueous solution are in the range of 2-20 minutes and the rate determining step is analyte film diffusion through the aqueous boundary layer. The uptake of volatile HC species in the silicone cladding is completely reversible.

The latest aspect in evanescent wave chemical sensing examined at the IFIA is the development of distributed sensing techniques, which could be of great importance for fast detection and location of HC leakage in technical installations of large spatial extension (e.g. pipelines and tanks).³ Here, the principle of Optical Time-Domain Reflectometry (OTDR) is used, which is a well-known technique for characterization of fiber-optic communication systems or for the distributed sensing of temperature using optical fibers. Short light pulses are coupled into a polymer-clad silica fiber. While the light is guided through the fiber a part of it is scattered and transported back to the front end of the fiber. These light signals are focused on a fast detector and registered in the time-domain by a digitizing oscilloscope. Since the light guiding properties of the fiber are affected through the evanescent wave by chemical substances enriched in the silicone cladding the shape of the backscatter signal is changed at the corresponding position where the fiber contacts a chemical. By knowing the time delay between excitation pulse and change in the backscatter signal and the light velocity in the fiber, the position of a chemical along every point of the fiber can be determined. The 'pattern' of backscatter signals (peak or step drop) caused by penetrating HC chemicals, that either change the refractive index, or the absorption and fluorescence properties of the fiber cladding, can be clearly separated from each other and from signals originating from other 'defects' in the fiber. These signals are also quantitatively correlated to the concentration of the analyte. The length of a fiber section that contacts the analyte solution can be obtained from the width of the corresponding backscatter signal. OTDR evanescent wave sensing experiments with a polymer-clad silica fiber performed in our laboratory showed that a length of up to 1.5 kilometer of the sensing fiber is possible.

The instrumental setup and various parameters influencing the response of the different evanescent wave sensor systems will be discussed. Furthermore examples for setting up HC calibrations, applications in the in-situ monitoring of HC contaminated waters and the performance of the fiber-optical sensor system in field tests will be presented.

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SPR Sensing Using Multimode Fibers

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For a bout twenty years, SPR technique has been widely used for chemical sensing and biotechnological applications. Surface plasmons are electromagnetic waves with maximal intensity at the interface between a noble metal (silver or gold) and a dielectric medium. The intensity decays exponentially in both the metal and the dielectric medium with the distance from the interface. Therefore, the excitation of surface plasmon is very dependent of the nature of both the refractive index and the thickness of the dielectric medium near the interface which allows sensing applications. The well known Kretschmann and Otto arrangements have been widely used in order to excite surface plasmons. A TM polarized light and a high refractive index prism in order to produce evanescent waves are needed. In these arrangements, the propagation vector of the evanescent wave parallel to the interface matches the propagation vector of the surface plasmon. So, one can monitor either the angle of incidence of the beam or the wavelength of the light. Nevertheless, these arrangements cannot lead to small sensors and remote sensing is impossible.

The use of a multimode fibre instead of the high refractive index prism allows the realization of more compact devices. The two approaches - modification of the wavelength or variation in the angle of incidence - are also possible. In the Biacore equipment (for biological applications) and at the University of Washington (Seattle - USA) [1], the wavelength of the light is monitored. At the University of Saint-Etienne (France), the « angular » approach has been studied [2]. Neither a white light source nor a spectrometer are necessary and the device is very simple. This lecture will deal with the advantages and the limitations of such an approach. The results obtained from experiments performed in the laboratory and from detection of CFC (using a specific polymer) will be given. Additional results about the detection of hydrogen leakages will also be given. In this case, the dielectric constant of the metal (palladium) is modified by the presence of the gas.

Improvements in the equipment will be shortly introduced (but presented in more details in a poster communication).

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Recent Development in SPR Sensing

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Since the first application of surface plasmon resonance (SPR) phenomenon for sensing almost two decades ago, the SPR sensor technology has made great strides. Numerous SPR sensing configurations have been developed and SPR optical sensors have been applied for the measurement of physical, chemical and biological quantities. A great deal of work has been done in the exploitation of SPR for biosensing where the SPR method has shown a great potential for affinity biosensors allowing real-time analysis of biospecific interactions without the use of labeled molecules. The SPR sensor technology has been commercialized by several companies. In the introduction, we shall attempt to review major development in SPR sensing focusing primarily on the development of optical systems for SPR sensors. Analysis of sensitivity and resolution of SPR sensing devices will be presented. The major body of the presentation will be devoted to discussing emerging trends in SPR sensing particularly the miniaturization of SPR sensing platforms and development of multichannel SPR sensing devices.

Major challenges associated with the development of miniaturized SPR sensors will be outlined. SPR sensing devices based on integrated optical waveguides and optical fibers will be discussed in more detail. Specifically: (1) We shall discuss an SPR sensor utilizing a single-mode side-polished optical fiber. Two modes of operation based on wavelength interrogation of surface plasmons and measurement of optical wave intensity variations due to excitation of surface plasmons will be described. Application of the fiber optic SPR sensor for refractometry and biosensing will be discussed and experimental results demonstrating the sensor's ability to measure bulk refractive index changes and monitor processes in the closest proximity of the sensing surface such as a growth of a thin layer will be presented. (2) We shall talk about SPR sensing devices based on planar integrated optical waveguides including methods for modeling SPR waveguide-based devices, sensor

characterization and customization of sensing devices for specific applications. Experimental results illustrating performance of integrated optical SPR refractometers based on planar waveguides produced by ion exchange in glass substrates will be presented.

SPR sensors based on wavelength interrogation of SPR in the Kretschmann geometry of the attenuated total reflection method and their potential for miniaturization and multichannel sensing will be discussed. Special attention will be given to an SPR sensing configuration which comprises parallel sensing channels and an optical switch allowing quasi-simultaneous monitoring of the sensing channels using a single spectrograph. Experimental results obtained using this sensing configuration for monitoring biospecific interactions will be reported.

Acknowledgement

Authors would like to acknowledge support of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (contracts 102/96/1561 and 303/96/1358), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (contract DAAL01-96-K-3614), and Center for Process Analytical Chemistry at the University of Washington (contract 66-9938).

“EWALD” and “SOFIE” – Improvements and New Applications of IR Fiberoptic Sensors

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During the last decades Chemical Sensors have gained considerable acceptance as versatile and flexible analytical systems for the evaluation of compound- or ion-specific or -selective signals produced by specific or selective chemical reactions taking place at the interface between the chemically modified sensor surface and the substrate. The introduction of new fiber optic materials and enhanced optical sensing schemes has greatly contributed to the fact that sensors are considered now as the "third supporting pillar of Analytical Chemistry" besides separation techniques and spectroscopic methods.

The aim of this presentation is to review the state-of-the-art of IR fiber optic sensor systems using chemically modified mid-infrared (MIR) transparent optical fibers as **Chemical IR-Sensors** for the on-line analysis of various analytes such as **chlorinated hydrocarbons** and **organic compounds** in aqueous solution focusing mainly on improvements of the sensor technology as well as new fields of application.

The development of fiber optical sensors during the last years benefits primarily from the substantial progress in the field of IR optical fibers, an offspring of the telecommunication industry. With the investigation of new materials besides the well-known quartz fibers for the UV/VIS/NIR-range the optical window for fiber optic sensors was enlarged from 0.2 to 20 μm recently. This spectral range allows to analyze compounds through their characteristic MIR absorption and is the driving force for modern research in IR optical fiber sensors focusing predominantly on **chalcogenide** (As-Se-Te), **sapphire** (Al_2O_3) and **silver halide** (AgBr / AgCl) fibers.

Organic contaminants originating from industrial effluents and domestic waste are among the major contaminants in ground and drinking water posing serious threats to our world water

resources. Especially the increasing pollution of seawater demands for robust and accurate monitoring systems of the marine environment. Hence, the EU-project **SOFIE** - "Spectroscopy using optical fibers in the marine environment" (MAS3-CT97-0157) aims at the development of an exclusively optical measurement system for the continuous perception of selected pollutants such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, heavy metals, etc. Currently applied analytical techniques for the determination of organic seawater pollutants are mainly involving discontinuous methods collecting and analyzing discrete samples. Main focus of our research group within this project is the development of an underwater IR fiber optic sensor system for in-situ and on-line monitoring of organic contaminants such as chlorinated hydrocarbons in the marine environment.

The introduction of a physico-chemical sensor system based upon attenuated total reflection (ATR) in appropriate mid-infrared (MIR) fiberoptics, known as fiber optic evanescent field absorption (FEFA), reveals a new method for in-situ marine monitoring. Silver halide fibers with an IR-transparent spectral window from 3000 to 500 cm^{-1} provide entire access to the fingerprint region of organic components such as chlorinated hydrocarbons. Appropriate polymer coatings modifying the fiber surface act as enrichment layer for various organic analytes. Using a compact Fourier transform infrared spectrometer a laboratory sensor system for multicomponent analysis has already been realized.

Highly sensitive target analysis for wastewater monitoring and analysis requires enhanced detection capabilities of IR fiber optic sensors. This can be achieved by introducing MIR tunable diode lasers, which is realized within the EU-project **EWALD** - "Evanescent wave absorption spectroscopy using laser diodes" (ENV4-CT97-0475). Combining these lightsources with planar monomode MIR waveguides results in highly sensitive monitoring systems enabling the determination of trace amounts of a wide range of individual organic pollutants by detecting individual absorption bands in the fingerprint region. Main emphasize of our research team in this project is focused on the development of new polymer coatings assuring selective enrichment of the analyte on the sensor surface.

An Optochemical Sensor Basing on Side-Polished Fibre-Optic Bragg Gratings

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Introduction

Single-mode fibre opt(ri)odes find increasing applications for characterising chemical parameters. The measurement of transmission spectra presents a very practicable sensor technique. However, the sensor influences a rather broad band of the spectrum, allowing to interrogate serial distributions of sensor elements along a fibre-optic transmission line only by time-domain and related demultiplexing techniques.

The introduction of Bragg gratings in the waveguide of the evanescent field sensor enables to confine the influence of the chemical to a Bragg wavelength shift of the narrow reflection spectrum of the grating. In single mode fibres, such Bragg gratings are periodic modulations of the fibre core refractive index which can be created by irradiation of excimer laser interference pattern [1].

A multi-point sensor network of many Bragg gratings along one fibre-optic transmission line can be interrogated by measurement of the entire reflected light spectrum, with the individual sensor elements separated by their different Bragg wavelengths. Such sensor networks are suited to accomplish fast on-line measurements of spatial distributions of chemicals with applications, e.g., in chemical and biochemical technology. The increasing market volume of fibre gratings in communication, optical signal processing and Photonics technology gives reason to expect a low-cost potential for their application in sensor technology, too.

In order to describe and to optimise the dependence of the Bragg wavelength on the overlay parameters to be measured, a slab model analysis can be applied for overlay deposited single-mode fiber half-couplers, with the Bragg grating as a weak perturbation.

Beyond this new sensor application, the Bragg wavelength of a fibre grating provides direct determination of the propagation constant of guided light modes. It is possible now, to compare mode parameters in evanescent field coupled multi-layered waveguides by the results from theoretical predictions and from experiments. Extending these investigations will show validity limits for different waveguide models and the calculated guided modes and will lead to the development of new functional elements.

Sensor configurations

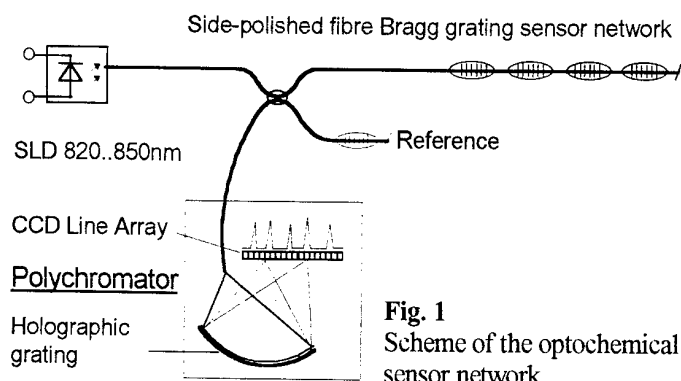
There are several structures with the capability to realise a Bragg wavelength shift by chemicals or thin film overlays near to the single mode fibre core: D-shaped fibres [2], isotropically etched [3] or side-polished fibres [4]. Beside, long-period gratings can generate mode coupling to lossy cladding modes, with the resonance wavelength shifted by chemicals outside of the fibre cladding, too [5].

In order to complete the evanescent field sensor by planar sensitive thin film overlays, the established technology of preparing side-polished fibres has been used in the investigations at IPHT.

The Bragg wavelength shifts of several sensor elements can be measured simultaneously using various spectroscopic techniques: optical filter plates, scanning Fabry Perot interferometer, acousto-optic tuneable filters, matched Bragg grating filters, prism or grating spectrometers, CCD based compact spectrometers (polychromator).

In the optoelectronic interrogation system at IPHT (Fig. 1, [6]), the accuracy of the spectral measurements of Bragg wavelength achieves residual errors of 1pm basing on a polychromator and especially developed thermally compensated gratings as wavelength reference.

The individual sensor elements in the network of Fig. 1 are addressed by their different



Bragg wavelengths, typically several nm apart from each other. Some of the sensor elements may be constructed with non-exposed Bragg gratings. This allows to measure temperature or mechanical strain simultaneously with the chemical properties of the analyte. Cross sensitivity of fibre gratings to some of these measurands can be considered and numerically eliminated.

Applications

The measuring signal of the refractive index of the guided fibre mode is the Bragg wavelength of the grating, with typically 0.1nm halfwidth and maximum shifts over few nm. In this way, neutrality to intensity losses is guaranteed, even under weak spectral distortions in long transmission lines.

In the experiments, the highest sensitivity of about $2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ occurred as the result of refractive index changes in thick overlays near to $n_{ovl}=1.46$. Without additional buffer layers, the most suitable substances to analyse are, e.g., different sorts of petrol or sucrose solutions. Aqueous salt solutions in the $n_{ovl} \approx 1.33..1.37$ region can be detected with $<10^{-3}$ sensitivity. The concentration of hot solutions of Na_2CO_3 , i.e., a typical borehole fluid, can be determined to $<\pm 10\%$, i.e., already this type of fibre-optic sensor is recommended for chemical measurements under the hostile environment of very deep boreholes.

The theoretical model predicts a substantial increase of sensitivity in the $n_{ovl}=1.0..1.3$ region by applying a thin high-refractive buffer layer between fibre core and analyte. Beside, such high-refractive layers can be used by themselves as sensitive overlays, if they are, e.g., $\text{SiO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$ films of microporous structure with particular sorption properties to humidity or carbon hydrides. In a similar way, electro-optic or magneto-optic thin films are suitable to transduce the influence of the corresponding fields to a Bragg wavelength shift.

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Present Status of Utilization of Optical Fibers in Analytical Chemistry in the Czech Republic

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Aim of this contribution is to map an actual state of the appearing of optical fibers and fiber optic sensors in the focus of interest of university researchers in the analytical and other departments of the Czech Republic.

Contribution of the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague to this field in the last years will be illustrated on the construction of *pH fibre optic sensor*, based on light reflection from the pH-sensitive polymer, *glucose fibre optic sensor*, based on detection of changes in the light reflected from the layer of immobilized glucose oxidase, and *hydrogen peroxide fibre optic sensor*, based on the detection of changes in chemiluminescence intensity during the oxidation of luminol in a reaction catalyzed by peroxidase. The prepared hydrogen peroxide fibre optic sensor was used for the determination of glucose: during the oxidation of glucose catalysed by glucose oxidase hydrogen peroxide was produced and its concentration was subsequently determined. Results obtained by the single fiber optics for determination of glucose in the aqueous solutions by near-infrared spectroscopy will be also reviewed.

Development of a Fiber Optic Humidity Sensor

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Several methods are used for the measurement of the air humidity including piezoelectric, conductive and thin-film sensors. The application of these sensors gives the possibility of the on-line measurement. The application fields of the water vapour sensors are extremely wide. The exact determination of the air humidity is necessary to control industrial processes, to avoid the exposure of semiconductor plates - or to perform the proper air condition. In the current project, a fibre optic humidity sensor has been developed.

The sensitive coating was fixed on the end of the light transceiver fibre optic cable. The coating has consisted of homogeneous silica suspension as matrix, and metal-oxide / metal chloride compounds as sensing element. The light receiver cable was set in front of the light sender cable. A PTFE tube was applied to hold the fibres in optical line (Fig. 1.). Porous PTFE membrane with 2 μm average pore size were used to cover the sensing tube. The size of the element was 3 mm in diameter and 10 mm in length.

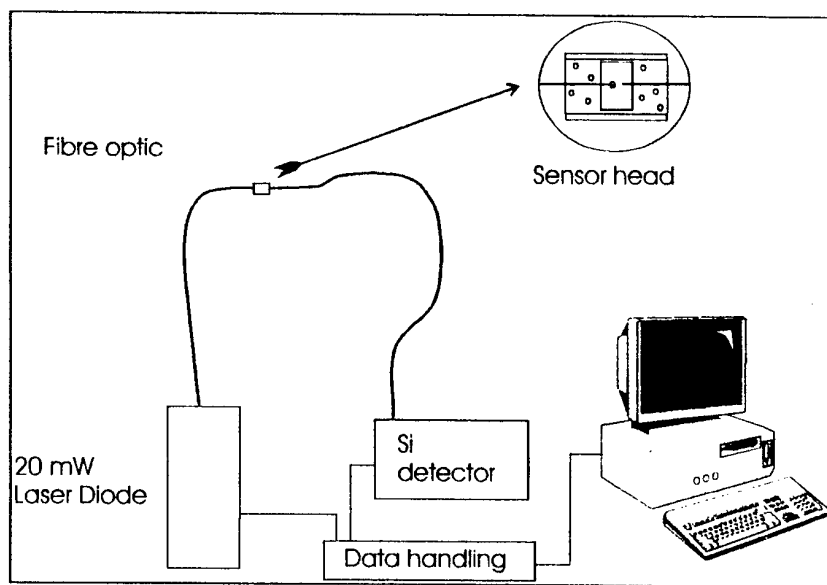


Figure 1.

670 nm 20 mW laser diode was used to drive the light transceiver cable. The amplitude of the laser light was modulated. Silicon light detector was applied to receive the signal from the other cable. The voltage signal was amplified and the result was read by an 12 bit A/D card.

The calibration of the device has been established by vapour space measurements (Figure 2.). The activity of the water vapour can be described using the partial pressure above difference salt solutions.

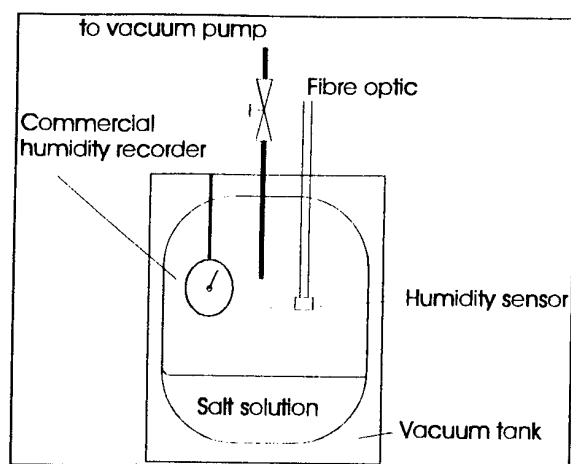


Figure 2.

Analytical curve was made using five different salt solutions (see Fig. 3.). Good reproducibility has been observed. Different humidity values and sensor response were calculated (see Table 1.) based upon the activity constants of the electrolyte solutions. The lifetime of the sensor was half a year.

<i>Salt</i>	<i>Activity coefficient</i>	<i>R%</i>	<i>Signal (mV)</i>
NaOH	0.070	7.0	670
MgCl ₂	0.333	33.3	803
NaBr	0.577	57.7	1197
KBr	0.807	80.7	1902
H ₂ O	1.000	100.0	15586

Table 1.

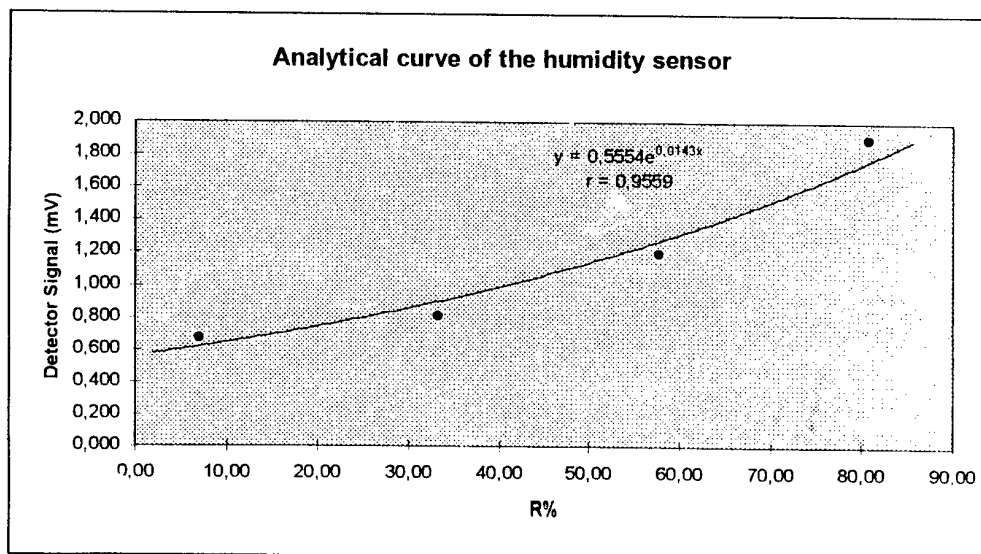


Figure 3.

Detection of Liquid Hydrocarbons by Means of Sensing Modules Built of Bent PCS Optical Fibers

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In recent years, a lot of effort has been devoted to the development of simple and inexpensive optical sensors for the detection of hydrocarbon leakages or hydrocarbon pollution of water [1]-[3]. One promising approach is based on using bent Polymer Clad Silica (PCS) optical fibers [2],[3] in visible and NIR region. In these sensors changes of the output optical power from the fiber are measured which are induced by changes of the refractive index of the fiber polymeric cladding due to the penetration of hydrocarbons into this polymer. This poster deals with the detection of hydrocarbons and petrol fuel via bent PCS optical fibers. It investigates, both theoretically and experimentally, several experimental arrangements of bent sensing fibers. Results of the investigation of a novel detection structure set-up of the bent fibers and an output mode filter [3] are shown, too.

Fiber-optic detection modules for sensing experiment were fabricated from PCS fibers with a core diameter of 0.2 mm. The optical cladding of these fibers was prepared from a commercially available polydimethylsiloxane polymer (Sylgard 184) and had an outer diameter of 0.35 mm. These fibers were bent with bending diameters of about 2.5 cm and fixed to supporting frames which had to ensure a constant bending diameter of the bent fiber during the experiments. The fibers were bent in an arc shape or wound in a single or multiple turns on the frame. These sensing modules were immersed in liquid hydrocarbons in an immersing cell and the output optical power from the fiber was measured by a detector. In some cases the output mode filter was placed between the fiber output and the detector.

The measured spectral and time responses of the sensing modules to contact with different amounts of various hydrocarbons and their mixtures will be published in the poster which show that sensitive modules with rapid and reversible response can be fabricated in this way (see the time response curve in Fig. 1). This effect can be enhanced by using the mode filter

preventing the detection of axial rays.

No sensitivity of the detection modules to water has been observed which reflects a small value of the partition coefficient of water in this siloxane polymer. A rapid short-term decrease of the output power after removing the immersing liquid from the cell can be explained by cooling down the cladding due to evaporation of the immersing liquid remaining on the fiber. Results of the verification of this explanation in experiments when the sensing module was immersed in water with different temperature will be given.

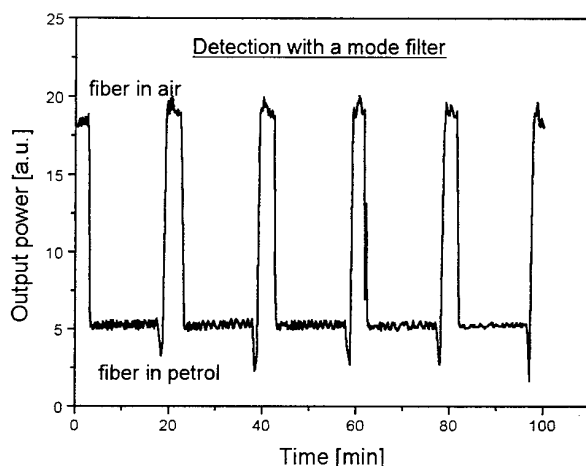


Fig. 1. Response of a PCS fiber bent in an arc of 2.5-cm diameter to petrol fuel

be shown in the poster.

This work was financially supported by the Academy of the Czech Republic (project No. 4104) and by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contract No. 102/96/0939.

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A theoretical ray-optics model has been developed which takes into account the refractive index of the cladding, bending diameter of the fiber and its length. This model was used for the explanation of experimentally observed sensitivities of sensing modules with different bending diameters and lengths of fibers. Results of this theoretical analysis will

Detection of Hydrogen Leakages Using a Fibre Optic Sensor for Aerospace Applications

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The SEP builds the engine Vulcain of the european rocket ARIANE V. This is a cryotechnic engine which burns liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen. The need of hydrogen detection is due to the fact that only 4% of hydrogen in dry air leads to an explosive medium at room temperature. Therefore it becomes necessary to have a protection against hydrogen leakages which can occur along the pipes and near the coupling flanges in the closed area made by the thermic protection of the engine. In order to overcome this drawback we have to develop an hydrogen sensor which can detect 1% of hydrogen in air in a response time lower than 10 seconds. The need of a deported local detection in a severe atmosphere yields to the choice of a fibre optic sensor.

Principle

The detection of hydrogen can be made by using palladium as transducing medium. This metal reacts with hydrogen in order to make the hydride PdH_x where x is the atomic ratio H/Pd. The absorption of hydrogen is related to a cristallographic phase transition represented by the Figure 1 for different temperatures. This phase transition leads to variations of the dielectric constant of palladium which can be used to produce variations of reflectivity of a palladium micro-mirror deposited at the out-put end of an optical fibre. The optical device which uses a standard silica fiber (400 μm diameter core) is presented in the Figure 2. The monochromatic beam of a laser diode is focused in the in-put branch of a Y-junction and the signal reflected by the sensing area (12 nm thick Pd layer) is collected by a photodiode at the out-put of the second branch. Continuous recordings of the power reflected by the palladium micro-mirror have been performed.

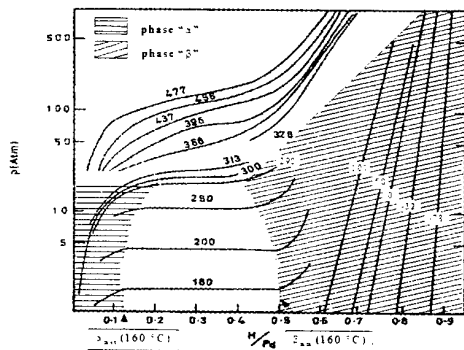


Figure 1 : Phase diagram of the hydride PdH .

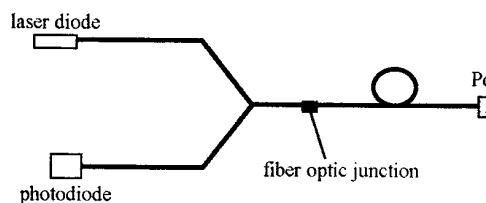


Figure 2 Optical device for the detection of H_2 leakages.

Detection at room temperature and at -196°C

Figures 3 and 4 present respectively the response and the response time versus the concentration of hydrogen at room temperature. The choice of the presentation with inverted axes has been made here in order to show the similarity of these curves with the phase transition curves of Figure 1. One can observe that the response is greater and quite constant when palladium is in the β -phase. Nevertheless the response time strongly depends on the concentration with a singular point related to the phase transition. Figures 5 and 6

present respectively the response and the response time for the detection of 4% of hydrogen at different temperatures. The singular point of the phase transition is still found but the main observation here is that the response time increases in great proportions when the temperature is lowered, leading to response times inconsistent with the protection against explosions. It follows that the palladium must be maintained in the β -phase to provide the required lower than 10 seconds response time. Therefore it is necessary to heat locally the palladium layer. This heating can be obtained optically by increasing the laser diode power. Figures 7 and 8 present respectively the response and the response time for the detection of 4% and 100% of hydrogen for different incoming powers on the sensing area at -196°C . The singular point of the phase transition is still observed and these curves are comparable with those of Figures 5 and 6. Furthermore they show that increasing the diode power locally increases the temperature of palladium and lowers the response time. An 80 mW incoming light power is necessary to provide a response time lower than 10 seconds in every case with a response of several percents which is still enough for the detection.

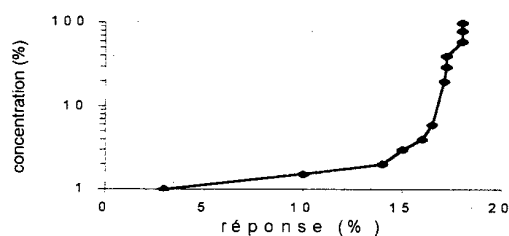


Figure 3 : Response at room temperature

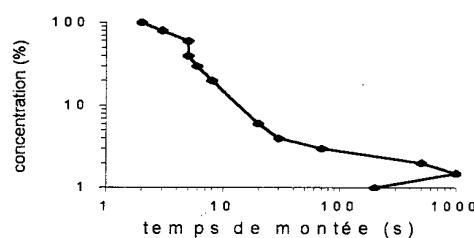


Figure 4 : Response time

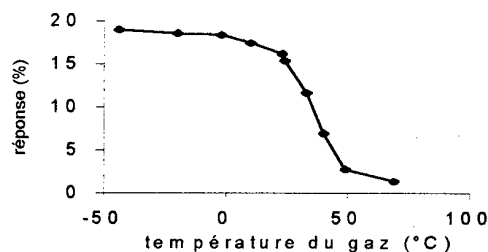


Figure 5 : Response at different temperatures

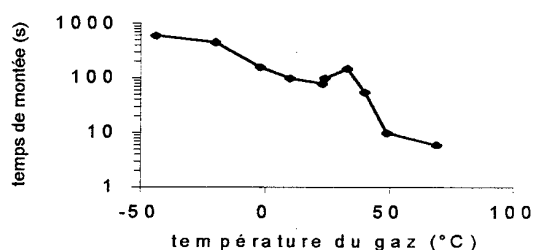


Figure 6 : Response time

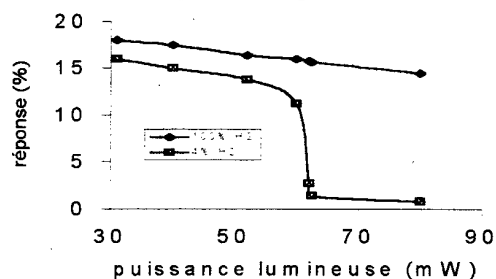


Figure 7 : Response at -196°C

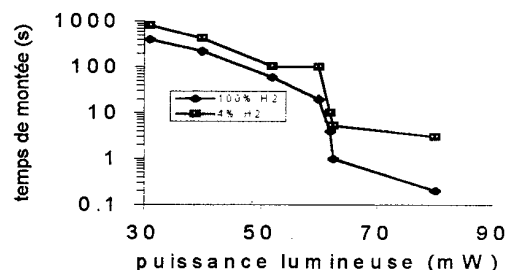


Figure 8 : Response time

Conclusion

This communication presents results obtained for the detection of hydrogen leakages at room temperature $+23^{\circ}\text{C}$ and at cryogenic temperature -196°C using a fibre optic sensor and palladium as transducing medium for aerospace applications. These results show that is possible to detect hydrogen leakages with a response time lower than 10 seconds provided that the palladium has been kept in the β -phase by an optical heating. These results are protected by an industrial patent.

Novel Optical Fibre Refractive Index Sensor Using a Specific Injection of Parallel Light Beam along the Axis

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The field of chemical and biological sensors have induced a lot of studies during the past twenty years, nevertheless it remains of great interest due to more and more concrete applications. Fiber optic refractometric sensors using evanescent waves or surface plasmon resonance (SPR) have been previously described*. They used a multimode optical fiber and a specific injection of monochromatic light. The aim of this communication is to present novel configurations for these sensors which allow very simple arrangements suitable for industrial applications.

Principle

These sensors were based on the modification of the reflectivity at the interface between the core and the cladding of a multimode optical fiber when the surrounding medium undergoes modifications of its refractive index. The sensing area was obtained by removing 15 mm of the cladding along the fiber. In the case of the evanescent wave sensors the sensing area was simply dipped into the sample cell. In the case of the SPR sensor the uncladded part was coated by a thin layer of gold or silver and the detection principle was based on the excitation of a surface plasmon at the interface between the metal and the surrounding medium. The specificity of these sensors was the injection of a monochromatic collimated light beam into the fiber which allowed a simple and inexpensive arrangement which nevertheless required a precision rotation stage.

The need of deported measurements requires an improvement of these sensors in order to displace the sensing part toward the output end of the fiber. Consequently it is necessary to deposit a micro-mirror at the output end of the fiber and to analyse the reflected light at the input end of the fiber. Considering the specific injection of light into the fiber, the far field pattern is a ring which must be focused on the optical detector despite the presence of the laser diode. In order to overcome this drawback we propose two novel configurations in which the collimated beam is injected parallel to the fiber's axis. These novel sensors work at a propagation angle fixed by a bevel realized by polishing either at the input end of the fiber (Figure 1a) or at the output end of the fiber (Figure 2a). Incident and reflected beams are separated by a beam splitter which can allow the monitoring of the input power. The far field ring is then focused on the optical detector.

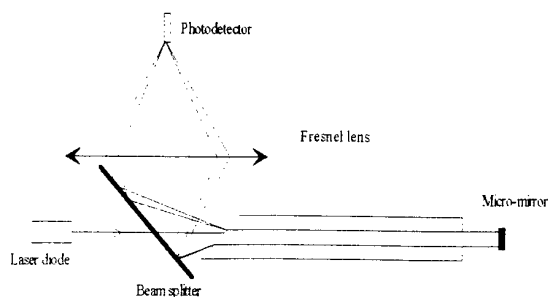


Figure 1a : Novel fiber optic sensor with a bevel at the input end of the fiber.

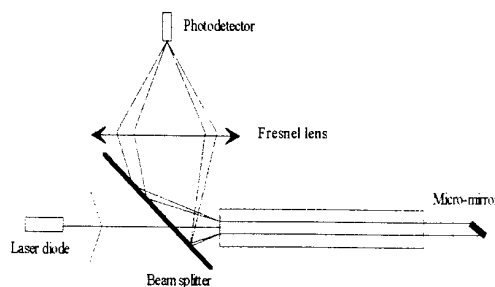


Figure 2a : Novel fiber optic sensor with a bevel at the output end of the fiber.



Figure 1b : Schematic propagation of light with a bevel at the in-put end of the fiber.

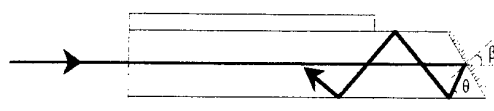


Figure 2b : Schematic propagation of light with a bevel at the out-put end of the fiber.

Results and performances

In the first case (Figure 1b) the propagation angle θ in the fiber is determined by the bevel's angle β and by the refraction law at the input according to the relation $\sin\beta = n_c \cdot \sin(\beta - \theta)$ where n_c is the refractive index of the fiber core. It follows that with $n_c = 1.457$ (silica) β must be approximately three times θ . In this configuration a sensing area half long as in the previous cases is enough. Experimental results have been obtained with $\beta = 19^\circ$ and 37° and an evaporated gold micro-mirror, they show similar response and performances than those obtained with the previous sensors. We measured a maximum sensivity of $3.7 \cdot 10^{-5}$ in the range 1.445-1.455 for the evanescent wave configuration.

In the second case (Figure 2b) the propagation angle θ in the fiber is only determined by the bevel's angle β and such that $\theta = 2\beta$ which makes the fabrication of the bevel easier. In this configuration only the reflected light presents the right propagation angle. So the sensing length must be the same as that of the sensors without micro-mirror in order to obtain the similar efficiency. Experimental results have been obtained with $\beta = 6^\circ$ and an evaporated gold micro-mirror, they show similar response and performances than those obtained with the previous sensors. Figure 3 presents the reflected light power of an evanescent wave sensor for which we measured a maximum sensivity of 10^{-4} in the range 1.43-1.45. Figure 4 presents the reflected light power of a SPR sensor with an evaporated 50 nm silver layer for which we measured a maximum sensivity of $3 \cdot 10^{-4}$ in the range 1.36-1.39.

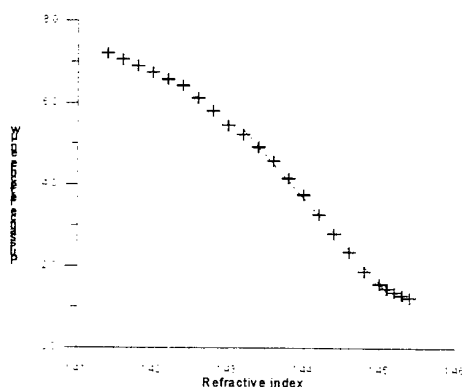


Figure 3 : Reflected power of an evanescent wave sensor with a 6° bevel at the out-put end.

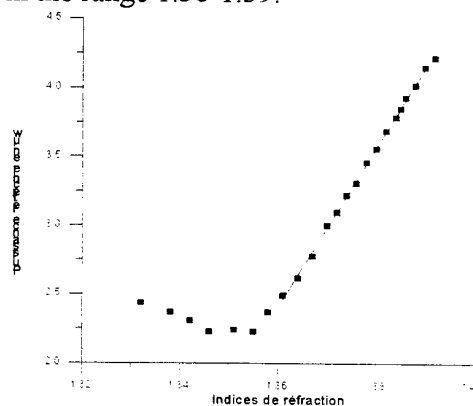


Figure 4 : Reflected power of a SPR sensor with a 50 nm silver layer and a 6° bevel at the out-put end.

Conclusion

We have presented novel configurations for evanescent waves and SPR fiber optic sensors which allow very simple arrangements suitable for deported measurements and industrial applications. The dynamic range (1.33 to 1.45) and sensivity ($5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ to $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$) of these sensors can be adjusted by the choice of the bevel's angle.

Reference

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The Suppression of Non-Specific Response to Human Blood Plasma in SPR Sensor for Detection of β_2 -Microglobulin

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A non-specific sensor response caused by the adsorption of analytes and other compounds on bare surface between immobilized receptors or by interaction of receptor molecules with compounds different from the analyte is one of the factors limiting medical applications of sensors for direct analyses in blood plasma and blood. In this paper we demonstrate that the non-specific response of an SPR sensor for detection of β_2 -microglobulin may be considerably reduced by coating the sensing antibody layer with a monolayer of bovine serum albumin.

An assembly (I) consisting of two molecular layers of monoclonal antibodies against human β_2 -microglobulin (anti- β_2 m) and an assembly (II) consisting of two anti- β_2 m molecular layers coated with a monolayer of bovine serum albumin (BSA) were immobilized on gold layers of surface plasmon resonance (SPR) chips by consecutive adsorption of proteins and covalent crosslinking with glutaraldehyde^{1,2}. Changes in SPR conditions during the assembly preparation and immunoreaction were monitored by wavelength interrogation technique³. The shifts in the resonant wavelength induced by binding β_2 -microglobulin (β_2 m) from 1% BSA solution to the assembly I and II were determined to be 2.24 nm and 2.43 nm, respectively. The binding efficiencies of the assemblies I and II were estimated as 0.88 and 0.82 molecule β_2 m per 1 molecule anti- β_2 m, respectively, by comparing the sensor responses to β_2 m binding with those corresponding to the immobilization of anti- β_2 m. While the specific response was not significantly reduced by the BSA coating, the non-specific response measured in human blood plasma was efficiently suppressed. The shift in the resonant wavelength of 8.15 nm (assembly I) was reduced to only 0.16 nm (assembly II) by the presence of BSA coating. Obviously, β_2 m molecules (m.w. 12600) were able to penetrate through the protective BSA monolayer on the top of the sensitive anti- β_2 m assembly while bigger immunoglobulins (m.w. 155000) probably responsible for the response to human plasma due to their immunoreaction with anti- β_2 m, were kept apart the anti- β_2 m assembly by the crosslinked BSA layer.

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Detection of Refractive-Index Changes by Means of the Inverted-Graded Index Optical Fibers

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In recent years, several special fiber-optic sensing structures have been developed with enhanced evanescent-wave sensitivity for chemical detection. Apart from fibers with special shapes (e.g. sectorial fibers [1]), multimode fibers with a special refractive-index profile in the core - inverted-graded index fibers (IGI) [2], have been devised. In preliminary investigations of the IGI fibers [2] increased sensitivity to changes of the cladding refractive index has been theoretically predicted and experimentally shown. This poster reports further results on theoretical and experimental investigations of IGI fibers.

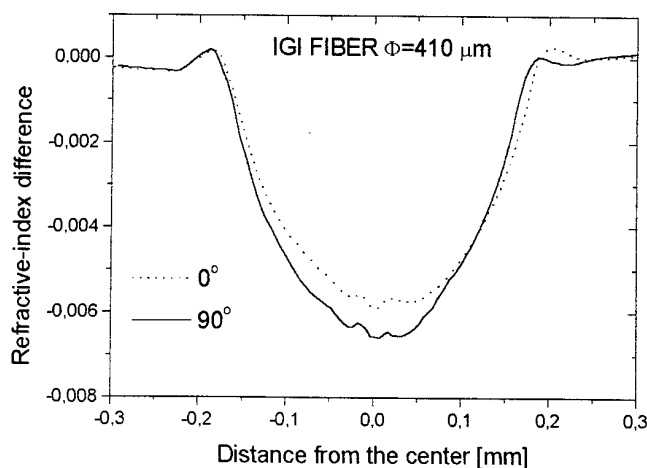


Fig. 1. Refractive-index profile of the drawn IGI fiber

Experimental samples of IGI fibers were drawn from preforms with a refractive-index profile shown in Fig. 1. Fibers with a core diameter of 0.41 mm were drawn and coated with polydimethylsiloxane polymer with a refractive index value of 1.407. For testing the sensitivity of these fibers to changes of the cladding refractive index, the

polymeric cladding was removed in lengths from 3 to 10 cm. This bare part of the fiber was immersed in liquids with known values of the refractive index.

An experimental quasi-point light source has been built set up of a single-mode fiber with a core diameter of 9 μm linked to a semiconductor laser diode by means of an optical connector. Using precise micropositioners this light source was placed on the axis of a tested sample of the IGI fiber and its distance from the input end of the IGI fiber was varied while the output power from the fiber was measured. Results of these measurements similar to those in Fig. 2 will be shown in the poster.

Experimental results have been explained on the basis of a ray-optics model. Results of the theoretical analysis of the fiber sensitivity taking into account the actual refractive-index profile of the drawn IGI fiber and assuming various values of the cladding refractive index will be shown in the poster.

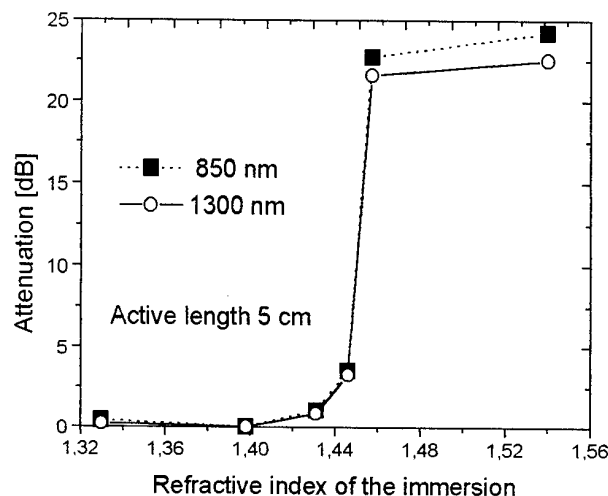


Fig. 2. Sensitivity of experimental IGI fibers to refractive-index changes in the optical cladding

This work was financially supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contracts No. 102/95/0939 and No. 102/97/P143.

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Temperature Induced Light Switching Performed by Capillary Optical Fiber

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Capillary Optical Fiber (COF) serves as a perspective element for liquids refractive index sensing as well as for a gas, fields (electrical and magnetically) and chemical sensing. Its main advantage consist in its use in distributed sensors schemes. The aim of this contribution is to show the new Principle and its use in temperature induced light switching in both "point" and "distributed" arrangement.

The crosssectional profile of COF see as follow: the core of this optical fiber has a shape of a ring, with cavity inside. The refractive index of this quartz-based ring is thanks to the Ge - doping slightly higher than the surrounded cladding. By this way is from one side of this core the air (or sensed medium placed in the cavity) and from the another side is quartz-based cladding. This cladding is surrounded by substrate in order to realized the desired geometrical dimension of this profile, and by this way to maintain the multi- or monomode state of this fiber.

The COF refers to so called "evanescent wave (EW) sensor". It means, that a part of the guided optical radiation penetrates both in COF cavity and substrate region, respectively. We have shown how depend the EW penetration depth on the index refraction difference (between core and material placed in the cavity), fiber geometry and applied wavelength, previously [1], [2].

The COF designed for temperature switching has a following principle. The COF which maintain the monomode state (with air inside the cavity and wavelength higher than 1000 nm) was filled with CS₂ (in the form of thin liquid layer placed on the COF core) and closed in the cavity thanks to the collapsing of both COF ends. By normal conditions is CS₂ liquid with index of refraction 1.62, what is much larger than that of COF core. Thank to this properties all light, which originally was guided by COF core, is coupled into this liquid layer (at the normal thermodynamically conditions) and after short distance is optical radiation predominantly guided by it. Thanks to the high attenuation of this supplemental liquid core layer, the radiation is attenuated after short COF length substantially. Now, when this COF is placed in the temperature higher than is the boiling point of CS₂, the phase transition of the first order take place. The COF core is surrounded by the CS₂ vapor now, with the index of refraction near to 1. By this way the radiation guiding is performed via the COF core with very small attenuation.

Various nuances of this temperature-induced light switch will be shown and discussed. Among them the most important are silanization of the COF inner wall, and maintaining the CS₂ pressure inside the cavity and regulation of switching temperature by this manner.

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Acknowledgment: The authors would like to acknowledge to VEGA grant No. 2/5082/98 and Joint Research Project SAS-BC.

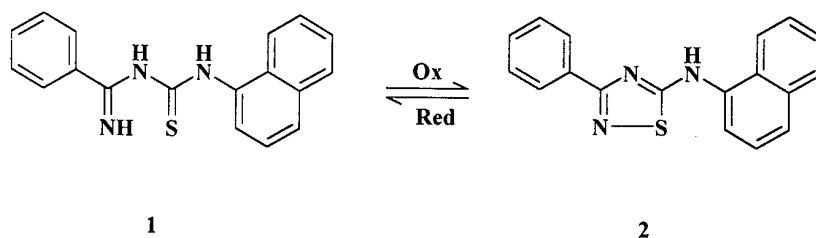
A Novel Redox Switchable Fluorescence Probe Highly Sensitive for the Copper (II) Cation

G. Hennrich¹, H. Sonnenschein², and U. Resch-Genger¹

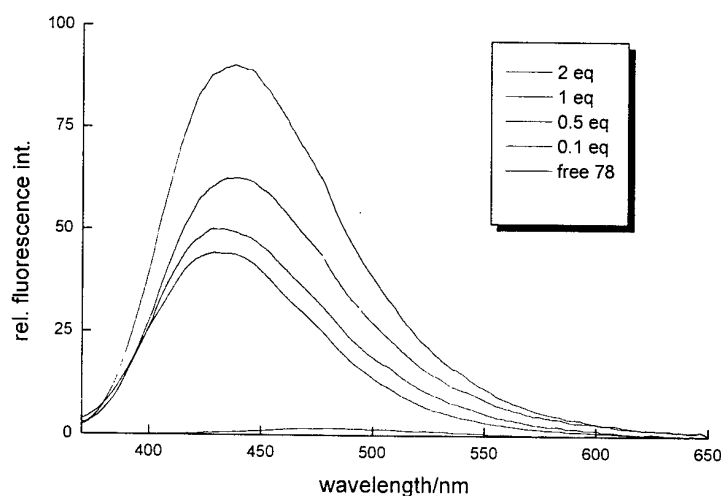
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The fluorescence and cation complexation behaviour of the 1,2,4-thiadiazol derivative (**2**) and its corresponding N-imminoyl-thiourea (**1**) is described. Both forms can be converted into each other by reversible oxidation or reduction, respectively.



Depending on the system's redox state, the heterocyclic (oxidised) and the ring opened (reduced) form show distinctly different complexation properties towards various heavy metal cations which is monitored via fluorescence spectrometry. Selective complexation of physiologically and environmentally relevant cations like Ca^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Hg^{2+} and Pb^{2+} resulting in fluorescence enhancement is achieved. Especially addition of Cu^{2+} , commonly known as fluorescence quencher, tremendously increases the quantum yield of **2** in acetonitrile solution whereas the fluorescence of **1** is quenched completely.



*fluorescence enhancement of **2** upon addition of Cu^{2+} in acetonitrile solution*

Active Optical Waveguides: Waveguide and Physical Parameters Measurement

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Thin-film dielectric waveguides are basic components of integrated optics. The active optical waveguides play an important role in this field. The current fabrication techniques of the thin-film active optical waveguides, such as ion-implantation, ion-exchange, diffusion, epitaxial growth method, and other techniques, result in waveguiding layers with nonuniform refractive index profiles and physical parameters changes. For the design and the fabrication of integrated optical devices, such as amplifiers and lasers, the exact knowledge of waveguide and physical parameters of the active optical waveguides, and their dependence on technological parameters, are required. So, it is important to have a possibility to determine basic waveguide characteristics and waveguide physical parameters accurately and efficiently.

Two groups of the optical methods have been realised for the active optical waveguides characterisation: the methods for the optical waveguides parameters and the refractive index profile determination, and the methods for the optical waveguides physical parameters measurement.

The dark-mode spectroscopy method, together with the reflectivity calculation method (RCM), and the surface reflectivity analysis (SRA), has been selected from the group of published methods [1] for the optical waveguide parameters and the refractive-index profile determination. The active optical waveguides fabricated by ion-implantation, ion-exchange, and laser deposition had been studied by these techniques.

The single isosceles-prism dark-mode spectroscopy has been realised and used to determine the waveguide and substrate modes, and effective-mode indices of the waveguide samples. These data are necessary for refractive index profile determination by the RCM.

The RCM was realised for the refractive index profile determination of multimode waveguides. We made a software package for mathematical simulation of the reflectivity coefficient of the single isosceles-prism technique, and we calculated the reflectivity coefficient as a function of the waveguide mode indices for anticipated (chosen) refractive index profile, characterised by a set of parameters. Theoretically determined effective-mode indices were compared with the effective-mode indices, which were experimentally obtained from the single-isosceles dark-mode spectroscopy. Using numerical optimisation techniques, we determined the optimum refractive index profile parameters, and so the shape of the refractive index profile. The method is applicable for waveguides with more than three modes only. The refractive index

profile determination will be demonstrated for the Nd:YAG waveguides fabricated by He^+ ion implantation.

For single mode waveguides and for optical thin-films that can not work as a guide the SRA technique has been selected and a software package was made. The method is based on the determination of the Fresnel reflectivity of the waveguide surface as a function of the angle of incidence for an anticipated (chosen) refractive index profile, characterised by a set of parameters. From the reflectivity curve measurements we assess initial values of these parameters. By using the numerical optimisation method we have fitted the measured and the calculated curves. We have find the correct parameters, and we determined the refractive index profile. The program has been tested theoretically for a set of refractive index profiles. The results obtained will be presented and limitation of the SRA method will be discussed.

A good knowledge of the fundamental physical parameters, such as waveguide losses, stimulated emission cross section, and fluorescence time decay of fabricated active waveguides, is important for waveguide amplifiers and lasers development.

The Fabry-Perot cavity resonances technique [2] has been prepared for channel optical waveguides loss measurement. The technique is based on the Fabry-Perot resonances of the channel optical waveguide with good polished facets. Losses of such Fabry-Perot resonator are deduced from the optical power resonant and antiresonant transmission measurement. Fully coherent, monochromatic laser light is needed for this measurement, and the cavity resonances must be scanned during the measurement process. An electronically controlled thermoelectrical (Peltier) system was developed for the Fabry-Perot resonator scanning. The first results of this method will be presented.

The modified end-coupling method [3] have been developed for planar active optical waveguides loss measurement. The optical phase conjugation (OPC) was used for automatic and efficient coupling of the measuring beam into the waveguide. The method is a modification of the single-pass transmission-loss measurement technique that is not very accurate because of the unknown laser beam coupling efficiency. The loss coefficient of 0.6cm^{-1} , corrected for Fresnel refraction, was obtained for the ion-implanted Nd:YAG waveguides. The self-pumped phase conjugation in photorefractive BaTiO_3 single-crystal has been used for OPC of the forward propagated, out-coupled waveguide modes, for the purpose of the loss coefficient measurements. The experimental set-up of such measurement and results obtained will be presented.

The stimulated emission cross section of Ti^{3+} , Er^{3+} , and Nd^{3+} doped waveguides we determine from comparative fluorescence measurement of the doped waveguide and just the same doped bulk material. The single-photon, time-resolved spectroscopy was used for the fluorescence time decay measurement. Some of the results obtained for Ti:sapphire, Er:glass, and Nd:YAG waveguides will be presented.

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This research has been supported by grant No. 102/96/1243 GACR.

Luminescence Lifetime Based Fiber Optic Ion Microsensors

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Abstract

Luminescence decay time based fiber optic ion micro-sensors for chloride and potassium are presented. Fiber tip coatings consisting of the respective ion-selective lipophilic ion carrier, plasticized PVC, and the ruthenium(II)tris-4,4'-diphenyl-2,2'-bipyridyl bromothymol blue ion pair $[\text{Ru}(\text{dibipy})_3\text{BTB}_2]$ as a proton donor [1, 2]. The efficacy of radiationless fluorescence energy transfer from the donor (the ruthenium complex) to the acceptor (BTB) is mediated by the ion concentration within the samples.

The chloride response is based on the co-extraction of chloride along with protons from the aqueous sample into a plasticized PVC membrane, whereas in the presence of potassium ions in the sample, the neutral BTB becomes deprotonated on potassium ion extraction, followed by the release of protons. Both processes result in a change of BTB absorbance. The absorption band of deprotonated BTB overlaps significantly with the emission band of the ruthenium complex so that radiationless energy transfer can take place.

Multimode quartz/quarz fibers with a core diameter of 100 μm have been used for the fabrication of the micro-optodes. The sensor chemistry was applied to the prepared fiber tips. The micro-optode fiber tips were fabricated using a preparation procedure described elsewhere [3]. After the application of the respective sensor chemistry, multimode fiber sensors were obtained possessing decay times in the μs range and allows the use of a relative simple instrumentation e.g. a solid state light source (LED) for the phase shift measurement.

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Molecule Detection with an Integrated Surface Plasmon Transducer

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Since the last few years, there is a spectacular growth of interest in the field of the integrated surface plasmon sensors, certainly because they can offer good performances at a very low cost with some advantages that are a characteristic of optical components such as immunity to electrical or electromagnetic interferences or the possibility to work in hostile environment.

The device described is a classical channel waveguide realised by ion-exchange in a glass substrate, covered with a thin silver film over a length of about 1mm and the light source is a 830nm laser diode.

We show that the output light power of the device is a function of the superstrate index. In order to reach the optimal sensitivity, it is necessary to have a good understanding of the phenomena that occur inside the component. For that purpose, we studied the mode coupling and propagation in detail to obtain an accurate modellization.

The transfer matrix method with the Newton-Raphson algorithm have been employed to solve for the propagation modes of the structure. It appears that with the classical scalar product, those modes are no longer orthogonal. The modal analysis must then be performed carefully.

We find that the computed response of the component is in good agreement with the measured values.

Finally, by the use of a sensitive material (squalane: $C_{30}H_{62}$), we also show an example of gas detection with the realised device.

Micromirror Driven by Electrostatic Actuation

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Abstract.

Microengineering principles and techniques are playing an increasing role in the design and fabrication of components in the fields of micro-optics and optoelectronics. Optical mirrors, gratings, lenses, waveguides and other techniques offer a wide range of possibilities to manufacture various components and also batch-produce and integrate them onto a wafer. A new, fast growing discipline called microsystems has evolved from a combination of the three subject areas of mechanics, optics and electronics at micrometer scales.

Introduction

IC-compatible microfabrication of micro-opto-electro-mechanical systems (MOEMS) has recently emerged to serve the increasing demand for low-cost mass-produced optics, compatible with standard silicon microelectronics. This discipline receives more and more attention and very promising results have recently been obtained in the fabrication of mechanical, electrical and optical sensors and actuators.

Micromechanical systems must include large-deflection actuators to create devices, which can interact mechanically with their surroundings. Electrostatic actuators with large non-resonant motion require high voltages and large surface areas to produce useful forces.

Production of microoptical devices is normally conducted in two stages: fabrication of a master copy and subsequent replication. The master can be fabricated and replicated using lithography, which is widely used in microelectronics. Direct laser and e-beam writing are also frequently used when very high precision is demanded. Replication for the fabrication of large arrays of high-quality allows inexpensive optical components with excellent repeatability.

Simulation of Micromirror

The micromirror in Figure 1 is driven by electrostatic actuation. The phase of light reflected off the micromirror can be altered if the micromirror is pulled down towards the substrate. The top electrode is the center region of the micromirror supported by the flexures. The bottom electrode is from Poly0.

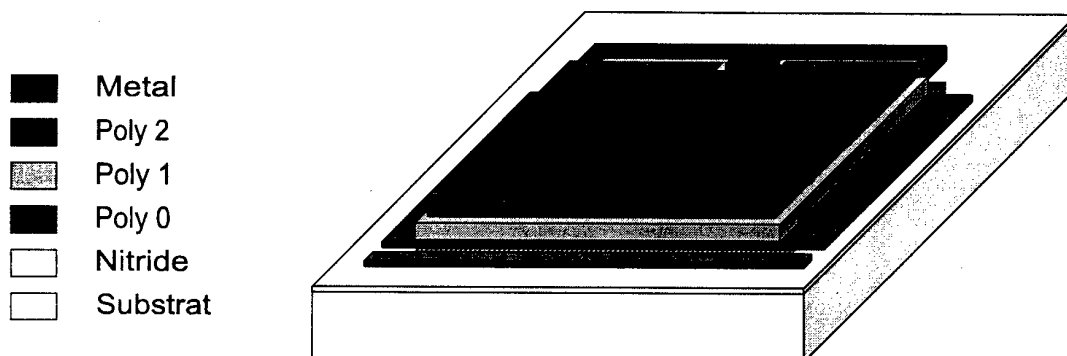


Figure 1.: Electrostatic actuated micromirror fabricated MUMPS technology

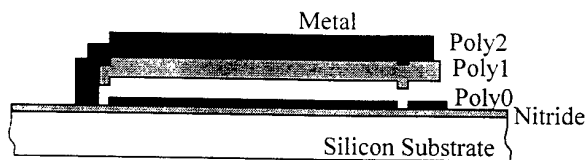


Figure 2: The stacks of Poly 1, Poly 2 and Metal represent mirror used to drive the actuator electrostatically.

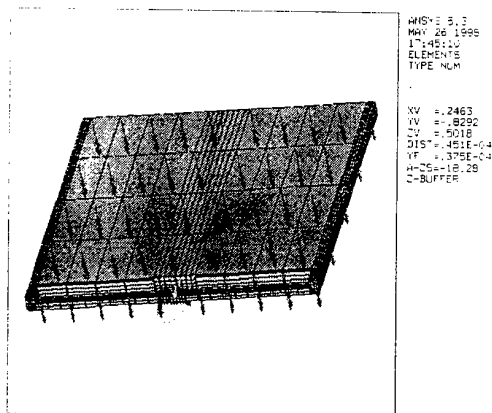


Figure3: Input structure for ANSYS simulation

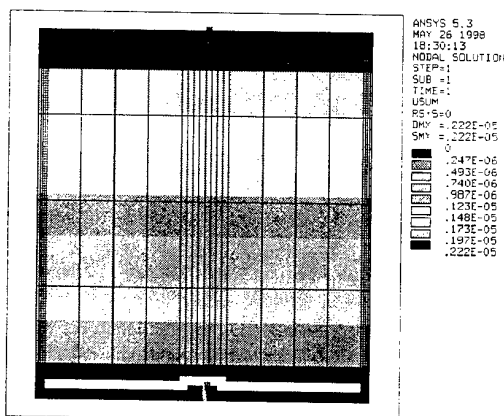


Figure 4: Output of ANSYS simulation. Dilatation of micromirror $70 \times 70 \mu\text{m}$. Distance of electrodes $2 \mu\text{m}$, $V=36\text{V}$

The mirror is a moveable plate, while the access line underneath is the fixed plate. The capacitor electrodes never touch each other, instead the tip of the moving mirror touches the fixed level at a landing pad, which is also conductive and kept at the same potential as the mirror.

The electrostatic micromirror was fabricated using the Multi-User MEMS Processes. The electrostatically actuated micromirror was constructed using thin surface of micromachined polysilicon film on a silicon wafer (Figure2). MUMPs offers three paternal layers of polysilicon and two sacrificial layers of phosphosilicate glass on a base layer of silicon nitride derived from work performed at the Berkeley Sensors and Actuators Center at the university of California.

For mechanical simulation of micromirror was used ANSYS program for finite element analysis and design. The input structure for ANSYS simulation is on the Figure 3.

The micromirror for micromirror array has size $70 \times 70 \mu\text{m}$ and distance between micromirror and bottom electrode is $2 \mu\text{m}$. The theoretical dilatation simulated by ANSYS program is on the Figure 4.

Conclusions

The technology of inexpensive micromachined adaptive mirrors and tilt correctors has found many applications in modern optics and optoelectronics.

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Carbon and Carbon Nitride Planar Waveguides on Silicon Substrates for Optical Sensors

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1. Introduction

With the development of optical communications and lately also of optical sensor structures [1,2,3], the components of integrated optics used on silicon substrate have been increasingly useful. Their advantages are very good optical parameters, cheap basic material, and, especially, the potential possibility of integrating optical and microelectronic structures.

Silicon substrate is coated with a separate layer which is prepared by thermal oxidation and its thickness is several microns. Presently there are many technological procedures used for the preparation of the upper planar waveguide layer with a higher refraction index than that of a separate layer of silicon oxide. This upper layer is created by dielectrics of anorganic origin and species of organic origin have also been successfully used recently. Anorganic dielectrics are usually layers of silicon oxide and nitride types, so-called oxynitrides, or layers of properly doped silicon oxide. In our work we have focused on preparation of thin carbon and carbon nitride films for planar optical sensors, which we consider very promising.

2. Experimental

Optimization of the preparation of carbon layers for planar optical waveguides focused on the growth of layers with a reproducible refraction index and thickness. Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) method was used for layer preparation. The source gases were methane, nitrogen, or ammonia. The layers samples for planar optical waveguides were prepared on silicon substrate. The samples were provided with thermally oxidated separating layer of SiO₂ (thickness 3 μm).

The samples chosen for infrared spectra measurement were prepared on two-sidedly polished silicon wafers. The thickness of the prepared waveguide layers was measured by profilometer Talystep. Optical properties of the waveguides were measured at 633 nm wave length using standard prism spectroscopy. An ellipsometer with rotating analyzer was used for refractive index measuring, the source of radiation being He-Ne laser with 633 nm wave length. The refractive index was measured at twelve points. Infrared (IR) spectroscopy was performed at room temperature using a FTIR Nicolet 740 spectrometer operating in absorption mode at 500 – 400 cm⁻¹ with GOLD Specular Reflectance Equipment manufactured by Spectra Tech UK.

3. Results and discussion

The refraction index and its distribution on the substrate is an important parameter of the layers prepared. The refraction index on carbon and carbon nitride softer layers prepared on the negative electrode was high (2.2 to 2.6) as compared with the harder layers on the positive electrode (1.6 to 1.8).

Infrared absorption spectra were elaborated for chosen samples. The spectra of the softer carbon layers clearly indicate the presence of –(CH₂)– groups (characteristic peak in the range 2900 – 3000 cm⁻¹), causing probably low hardness of the layers and lower

refraction index (polymeric character of the layers). The spectra of the harder carbon layers with higher refraction index contain fewer of these groups. The absorption bands caused by C-H stretching, peak at 2937 cm^{-1} , respectively at 2863 cm^{-1} , i.e. near the wave number corresponding to asymmetrical and symmetrical stretching in CH_2 groups. These lines indicate the amount of bonded hydrogen in the film. The frequency tail of this band (near and above 3000 cm^{-1}) can be ascribed to stretching in various $=\text{C}-\text{H}$ groups. High hydrogen content leads to frequent termination of the atomic bond network, which probably results in low hardness of the films and in lower refraction indices. The main feature of FTIR spectrum is a band corresponding to symmetrical stretch - $\text{C}=\text{C}=\text{C}$ - groups at 1070 cm^{-1} supporting the proposed polymeric structure. In all samples the characteristic carbonyl band ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) at 1740 cm^{-1} can be detected. The origin of this peak is probably in reaction trapped long-lived radicals after deposition with oxygen and water vapor.

Optical properties of planar optical waveguides, i.e. samples of the layers deposited on a silicon base with a separation layer of SiO_2 , were measured. Because of the great difference of values of refraction indices, the „guided,, mode already exists from the layer thickness of approx. 100 nm, and the waveguide is one-mode type with the thickness up to approx. 400 nm, practically independently of the thickness of SiO_2 layer.

This analysis reflects only the attenuation by radiation and absorption in the silicon substrate. It is possible to expect that the quality of the interface and the structure perfection of waveguide layers is of essential importance for the real attenuation of waveguides due to high concentration of optical radiation in the waveguide layer with the high refraction index. We prepared samples of planar waveguides with great differences between the refraction indices of the core and the casing with the structure of $\text{Si}/\text{SiO}_2/\text{C}$. From the analysis and from the measured parameters of the layers, the optimum thickness of 320 nm for the waveguide layer for the one-mode waveguide resulted. The attenuation of the prepared planar waveguides was about 1 dB/cm and in the case of the best one it was 0.3 dB/cm.

4. Conclusion

Optimization of PECVD technology for preparation of carbon layers suitable for planar optical waveguides was implemented, and samples of these waveguides prepared. Conditions have been set up for channel waveguides implementation for optical sensors and integrated optics elements on silicon substrates.

Acknowledgements

The work was realized under financial support of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (Nos. 102/96/1610 and 106/97/0498).

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Characterization of Polymeric Coating Materials for Infrared Evanescent Wave Sensors

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Sensor technology has come to an age, where many of initially very ambitious and risky concepts have proved their applicability and successfully found their way into industrial and commercial systems. However, there are still white spots on the map of potential sensor applications: Especially environmental monitoring and process analysis in harsh environments often suffer from limited endurance of complex (bio-)chemical recognition layers.

In this context, mid infrared spectroscopy is a promising transducer system for chemical sensors, due to its inherent molecular specificity, which allows to choose more simple but stable materials such as common polymers as chemically sensitive materials. Additionally, by means of fiber optic and evanescent wave sensing principles versatile and rugged sensor systems can be easily realized.

In these systems most of the 'recognition task' is performed by the molecular specific transducer. However, even in moderately complex matrices analyte spectra are likely to heavily overlap and prohibit exact speciation. Hence, the nature of the polymer layer, which has to serve as a kind of 'preselecting filter' allowing only enrichment of a certain subclass of all present substances in the active region of the sensor, has still to be carefully chosen.

In order to accurately characterize and compare the sorption and diffusion properties of only a few polymer materials for several analytes a considerable number of single sorption experiments have to be carried out, which can get very time consuming. For this kind of experiments we built up a computer controlled sequential injection calibration system, which enables unattended running of whole calibration sets (e.g. overnight) thus providing a statistically useful amount of data within reasonable time.

Enrichment factors of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as BTEX or chlorinated hydrocarbons in thin films of several aliphatic polymers and siloxanes were determined. The resulting selectivity patterns will then be used for further development of coating materials.

This study was part of the EU project ENV4970475, which aims on development of an optimized IR tunable diode laser sensor system for VOCs in waste water.

Optical Fibres for Environmental Analysis of Seawater Pollutants

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The maintained health of our surrounding oceans requires frequent monitoring of their numerous physical, chemical and biological parameters. The main obstacles are the diversity of the constituents, the harsh measurement conditions and the enormous size of the water mass. The most widespread approaches for sea water analysis involve sampling. This requires a suitable sampling arrangement and a laboratory with highly specialized equipment and trained personal. Even then these methods usually are too slow, too expensive and far too complicated for measuring time dependant pollution profiles, e.g. near industry sites or tanker cleaning points.

The logical alternative to the standard analysis systems are sensors. Especially optical sensors are well suited for this purpose as it is much easier to build sea water resistant optodes than electrodes. Additionally, varying environmental conditions are less likely to affect the rugged optical sensors than electrochemical devices. For these reasons, the European Union decided to fund an European research project for Spectroscopy using Optical Fibres in the Marine Environment - SOFIE (Contract Nr. MAS3-CT97-0157).

The aim of the SOFIE-project is the development of a modular all-fibre-optic measurement device for the *in situ* monitoring of pollutants in the marine environment. The overall system consists of different sensors covering a range of optical methods. All sensitive parts are contained in a seawater proof tough body, while only the actual sensing elements are exposed to the seawater. The analytes chosen for the first such device are heavy metal ions, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) and chlorinated hydrocarbons (CHC's). However, the modular construction of the system allows the implementation of additional sensors.

The Institute of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Technology Vienna is responsible for the development of a mid-infrared (MIR) fibre optical sensor for the analysis of chlorinated hydrocarbons in water. Chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, are, besides highly toxic chemicals, particularly significant indicators for urban pollution.

The CHC-sensor is based on fibre evanescent wave spectroscopy (FEWS), using silver halide fibres as elongated attenuated reflection elements. Silver halide fibres are highly transparent in the mid-infrared region, highly flexible and can be used for remote sensing distances of up to 5 m. The actual sensor head is a silver halide fibre, coated with a thin, hydrophobic polymer layer. This layer simultaneously enriches the analyte near the attenuation reflection element and protects the fibre from the corrosive seawater.

Two measuring principles are currently under investigation. One approach utilizes tunable diode lasers (TDL's), which are small and rugged. However, only a limited number of compounds could be detected using this system. The alternative introduces a rugged, miniaturized FTIR-spectrometer. This system would have the advantage of allowing multi-component analysis of CHC's as well as of aromatic hydrocarbons. While the use of MCT-detectors cooled by maintenance-free Stirling coolers provides a suitable detector, the crucial point still is the ruggedness of the optical setup, especially when using the FTIR-approach.

Light Emitting Diodes as Selective Detectors

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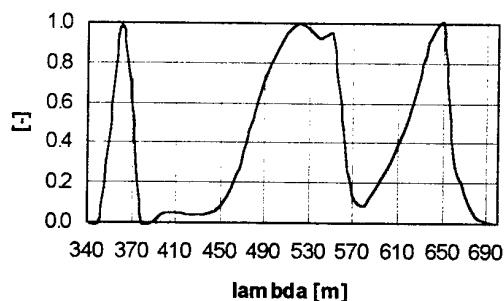


Fig. 1 Spectral characteristics (from left) of blue, green, red LED used as photodiode

have relatively wide spectral characteristics (100 nm, e. g. [2]) This selectivity must be increased by special selective optical accessories as optical grating, prism, filter (too complex construction, too large proportions, too expensive). Some Light Emitting Diodes behave as acceptable selective detectors. The characteristics can be influence by type of the dopant. We suppose using these diodes as selective detectors for miniature pocket or „watch“ personal dosimeters.

For verification of our idea we tried to check the spectral sensitivity common types of diodes (red-GaP, LQ2134-Bicolour; green-GaP, LQ2134-Bicolour; blue-SiC, L-934BC a L53BC). The measured characteristic especially SiC LED showed a very narrow spectral characteristic (spectral linewidth 10 nm) with maximum sensitivity at 365 nm . In other

Tab. 1		Source		Detector	
Type		λ [nm]		λ [nm]	$\Delta\lambda$ [nm]
L-934BC(SiC-blue)		470		365	10
LQ2134(GaP-green)		520		565	130
LQ2134(GaP-red)		650		660	45
SGD-100(Si-photodiode)		---		1000	400

parts of the UV and visible light interval we have found no measurable voltage value on these diodes. The resulting spectral characteristics of measured diodes are shown in the Fig. 1. For there comparison we also cite the behaviour of the spectral characteristic of an idealised quantum

detector. In tab. 1. is overview of properties some types of detectors. Perspective materials for LEDs useable for selective detectors are shown in tab. 2. The measurements were performed on the Department of Microelectronics.

In future work we shall endeavour to discover follow-up data(materials) for diodes with narrow spectral characteristics and a potential for adjusting maximum of spectral sensitivity characteristic by the type of dopands enabling a classification of UV spectrum region.

Tab. 2 Perspective materials

Material	Emission λ [nm]
CdF ₂	270-700
Cd _{1-x} Zn _x S	340-540
6H SiC	450-560
GaN	360-570

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Distributed Fibre Optic Sensors for Detection and Localisation of Ammonia Leaks

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A rapid detection and localisation of ammonia leaks establishes a serious problem for all the industrial facilities utilising large-scale cold-storage rooms, such as breweries, dairies, and abattoirs. Every year, several accidents are reported caused by ammonia leakage resulting in severe common distress.

The traditional ammonia detection employs point potentiometric electrode sensors organised in network [1]. These generally suffer from high power consumption, necessity of relatively frequent re-calibration, and restricted coverage of the inspected area.

Numerous optical devices has been proposed in attempt to overcome the former drawbacks (see e.g. [2-7]). One of the most promising concepts is taking advantage of optical time domain reflectometry (OTDR), allowing simultaneous determination of ammonia concentration and leak location over the length of sensing fibre [4,8,9]. An OTDR set-up was employed to testing the distributed ammonia sensing system described in further.

The experimental set-up we used consisted of Photodyne 5500 XFA OTDR unit, HP 54615B digital oscilloscope (1GSa/s, 500 MHz bandwidth), 57m of a custom-made sensing optical fibre, and a PC. Light pulses (20 ns width, 1 kHz repeating frequency, $\lambda=850$ nm) were launched in the fibre and the reflected light intensity was detected by a Si-photodiode. The signal was then amplified by a logarithmic amplifier, analysed by the oscilloscope, and the resulting OTDR curves were sent to PC. Ammonia vapours were developed by evaporation of a 25 % $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ solution at RT. An ammonia/air mixture was pumped into the testing chamber where a short section (4m) of the sensing fibre was placed.

The key part of the system was the sensing fibre transmuting ammonia exposition to variation of the back-reflected light intensity. We employed a silicon-clad silica fibre (200/260 μm core/cladding diameter) with the cladding doped by 5-(4'-diethylaminophenylimino)quinolin-8-one copper(II)sulphate complex dye. The method of dye incorporation was similar to those described by Potyrailo and Hieftje [10]. The synthesis and spectral sensitivity of the dye to ammonia was described elsewhere [11,12]. The dye shows a strong absorption band with maximum at 740 nm. The red shoulder extends up to 900 nm. Repeated expositions to ammonia cause reversible drops of the NIR extinction.

Significant variations of the OTDR curves were observed during the ammonia exposition: (i) The intensity of the Fresnel reflection from the remote fibre end increased, as a result of the total light attenuation decrease owing to the local dye absorption decay. (ii) The time-dependence of the back-reflected light intensity showed a well-resolved local increase. The slope change could be related to the exposed length of the fibre and the ammonia concentration. A simple decision-making algorithm is proposed utilising the former features.

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This research was kindly supported by the European Commission (contract number CIPA-CT94-0206).

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A Development Tool for Sensors Based on the Inner-Filter Effect

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The use of the primary and secondary inner-filter effect (IFE) and/or energy transfer (ET) in fluorescent optical sensors has two distinct advantages: *i*) tunable dynamic range and *ii*) enhanced sensitivity. The technique was introduced first for pH sensing as cuvet test [1] and recently was adapted for solid-state optode membrane systems [2,3]. A sensor based on the IFE contains two different dyes: the emission of a fluorescent species is modulated by a second absorber molecule. In the simplest case the sensor response is influenced by the spectral overlap and the concentrations of the two dyes and by the binding coefficient(s) of the analyte. Because of the many parameters, it is not easy to find the best composition of a sensing membrane and the development requires a lot of experiment.

In this work we describe a novel computing method based on the theoretical description of the IFE [4]. The results show that two different types of IFE based sensors exist: a) the *passive IFE* where the absorber binds the analyte, and b) the *active IFE* where both of the dyes are sensitive. By using the experimental absorption and emission spectra of the dyes the computing results in the following important parameters: the optimal concentrations of the absorber and fluorophore as a function of the excitation and emission wavelength, the ex/em wavelength at the highest signal change, and the signal change of the sensing system as a function of the analyte concentration. Heavy metal sensitive [5] and pH sensitive dye mixtures were used to test the program.

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This work was supported by the Hungarian Research Foundation (OTKA) F-17324.

Characterization of Chromogenic Calix[4]arene Derivative Based Sodium-Selective Optical Sensors

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Novel chromogenic calix[4]arene derivatives were synthesized and tested in our Laboratory as ionophores for designing optical sensors. Distinct sodium selectivity was observed with the chromogenic calix[4]arene derivative with 2,4-dinitro-phenylazo group in the neighbourhood of the coordination sites. This ligand has been incorporated into plasticized PVC and other polymers to develop sodium-selective optodes. The analytical characterization of the plasticized PVC based optical membranes has been investigated in detail. The dynamic concentration, ion-selectivity behaviour, response time and reproducibility are discussed. The optical membrane exhibits sodium sensitivity in the $5 \times 10^{-2} - 10^{-4}$ mol/l concentration range. Due to the pK_a value of the ligand the operation pH of the plasticized PVC membrane is relatively high. The optode membrane components were varied deliberately with the aim of lowering the operation pH. The effect of the nature of the membrane matrix on the dynamic range and the operation pH of the relevant optode membrane are explained. The sodium ion response is interpreted on the basis of the ion-exchange theory, which is underlined by the results of calixarene mediated ion-transport experiments.

The Experimental Studies on Feasibility of the Fibre-Optic Aqueous Sensors Based on Surface Plasmon Resonance on Silver Film

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Gold and Silver are ones of most important metals employed to produce the Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR). Gold has been traditionally used for decades and commercially realized in SPR sensor owing to its physical and chemical stability. Silver can provide the SPR much sharper than Gold that has been theoretically and experimentally verified. Unfortunately Silver is very active. It is oxidized as soon as it is exposed to air, especially to water that gives rise much difficulty to bring about an aqueous sensor which utilizes Silver as the SPR supporter.

Our optical fibre sensors were elaborated by a multimode silica step-index fibre with the core diameter 600 μm and the core refractive indice 1.457. A section of the cladding was removed at the middle of the fibre. Then a Silver film about 45nm-55nm was deposited by thermal evaporation. The SPR was excited by a collimated light with 670nm wavelength which illuminated the input end of the fibre from a laser diode. According to our theoretical predictions, if an overlayer of ZrO_2 (index 1.54 and thickness 20nm approximately) was coated onto the Silver layer, a novel sensor capable to monitor aqueous environment (index varied from 1.33 to 1.35) can be achieved. This kind of optical fibre sensor is very useful to detect most chemical and biochemical systems.

The overlayer of ZrO_2 was fabricated by Sol-Gel technique. After that, the fiber was cured at 60°C for three hours in order to densify the ZrO_2 film. Experiments illustrated that the Silver layer was seriously oxidized if the temperature was raised up to 110°C.

We have experimentally realized this kind of fibre-optic aqueous sensor with very good sensitivity (about 2.5×10^{-5}). However, its performance deteriorated in a few days. It's obvious that the overlayer of ZrO_2 was not dense enough to protect the Silver from oxidation. Therefore, the acid Thiols with both long chain and short chain were introduced to further experiments. Before the elaboration of the ZrO_2 layer, the metallized fibres were dipped into the solutions of Thiols for 2 hours in order to construct a monolayer of Thiol on the surface of Silver. The compared experimental results let know that the acid Thiols can prevent, to some degree, the oxidation of the Silver, hence delay the deterioration of the sensor and at the same time, improve the adhesion of the layer of ZrO_2 . Moreover, the sensor with the long chain acid Thiol has much more stability and much longer life-time than that with the short chain acid Thiol has. It can be explained as the long chain Thiol can build a monolayer much denser than the short chain Thiol can. This experimental discovery is significant because it makes possible to fabricate a stable fibre-optic aqueous sensor using a long chain acid Thiol for practical applications. Furthermore, an immuno-sensor can be developed.

Characterization of Ormosils

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The sol-gel technology enables the production of glasses at ambient temperature. In contrast to conventional glass sintering at high temperature, a great variety of glasses containing both organic and inorganic additives can be made. Major advantages of sol-gels include mechanical stability, chemical inertness, optical transparency, low-temperature processing, and flexibility in shaping configurations. Most sol-gel techniques use water and low molecular weight alkoxysilanes such as tetramethoxysilane (TMOS) or tetraethoxysilane (TEOS) as sol-gel precursors. Ormosils (organically modified siloxanes) represent hybrid systems in which several precursor types such as organotrialkoxysilane or diorganodialkoxysilane precursors ($R'Si(OR)_3$ or $R'_2Si(OR)_2$, respectively) in which the R' represents a nonhydrolyzable organic substituent, are combined. They have attracted much attention in recent years because they provide easy introduction of reactive functional groups which can be subsequently used as covalent anchors for indicators, or they are used to reduce the functionality (potential number of sites able to form Si-O-Si bonds) of the alkoxide precursor, impart organic character or derivatize the siloxanes network.

Conventional sol-gels are rather hydrophilic and well suited for sensing ions. A more hydrophobic material is obtained by preparing ormosils. Ormosils have been attracting greater interest recently in the area of chemical sensors, mostly to form ormosil-based optical oxygen or ammonia sensors. A critical parameter in gas sensing is the permeability and permeation selectivity of the polymer used. Silicones, teflon and plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) are considered to be a good compromise, owing to their high permeability for gases and their impermeability to ions. Other materials such as cellulose, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinyl acetate) also have been used for gas sensing but they are less gas-

permeable.

In contrast with the fast development of many applications, the exact nature of the entrapment and the properties of the encapsulating cage are still to be fully understood. The detailed microstructure of sol-gel glasses depends on a large number of important processing parameters such as water:sol-gel precursor ratio (R), precursor type, nature of the catalyst, aging time, aging temperature, drying time and drying temperature. Investigation of sol-gel systems has proceeded along two fronts: a) examination of the sol-to-gel-to-glass phase transitions and b) elucidation of the structural, physical, and chemical properties of the xerogel and glass products. These characterization studies have been carried out with a variety of techniques including X-ray scattering, infrared, Raman and NMR spectroscopies, transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and ellipsometry.

The idea of our work was to entrap polarity-sensitive dyes to gain more information about polarity insight of the ormosil cages. We have used two different solvatochromic dyes, (a) Nile Red (NR) and (b) ketocyanine (KC) dye, all with unique positive solvatochromic properties in fluorescence, to study the spectroscopic properties in different solvents and ormosils. Fluorescence maxima and intensities were used to study NR and KC doped in ormosils, prepared from various proportions of tetramethoxysilane (TMOS) and methyltrimethoxysilane (MeTriMOS), octyltrimethoxysilane (OcTriMOS), phenyltrimethoxysilane (PhTriMOS), dimethyl-dimethoxysilane (DiMeDiMOS) or diphenyldimethoxysilane (DiPhDiMOS). Layer properties such as temporal and storage stability were monitored as a function of amount and type of the ormosil precursor.

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Analysis of Measurement Errors for Jones Matrix Elements of Optical Fibers

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Polarisation stage of single mode optical fibers for some different physical conditions (rotation, torsion) was measured in accordance with designed methods [1,], [3]. Elements of Jones matrix may be determined by using of computing programme JONES [2,] [4] from 11 optical intensities that are measured for defined arrangement of measuring system. Scattering of measured optical intensity values cause the incorrect determination of Jones matrix elements. One may recognize the effect of error decomposing of Jones matrix on the field of quaternions.

Optical fibre component described by Jones matrix

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{pmatrix} R_H \cdot e^{j0} & R_V \cdot e^{j\frac{\Delta V}{2}} \\ R_V \cdot e^{-j\frac{\Delta V}{2}} & R_H \cdot e^{-j\Delta H} \end{pmatrix},$$

may be decomposed on the field of quaternions

$$\mathbf{J} = \xi_0 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + j \cdot \left(\xi_1 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \xi_2 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -j \\ j & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \xi_3 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

where is $\xi_0^2 + \xi_1^2 + \xi_2^2 + \xi_3^2 = 1$.

New part of programme AQUA can examine the effect of optical intensity changes on the Jones matrix and quaternions. Values of intensity entering the programme vary randomly in required range and adequate Jones matrix and quaternions are calculated. Resulting quaternion values are drawn as a points in the coordinate system ξ_3, ξ_1 . Polar coordinates of such point are $\rho = \sqrt{\xi_1^2 + \xi_3^2}$, $\text{tg} 2\alpha = \frac{\xi_1}{\xi_3}$. Number of calculations in finally 20000. Examples of scattering patterns are given in figures 1, 2.

According to present knowledge the errors in measurement and calculation have the maximum effect if the phase difference in matrix diagonals has an extreme value ($k\pi$, where k is an integer number). In those cases some of quaternions limit to zero or maximum value.

Method is suitable for analysis of error existing in determination of Jones matrix elements.

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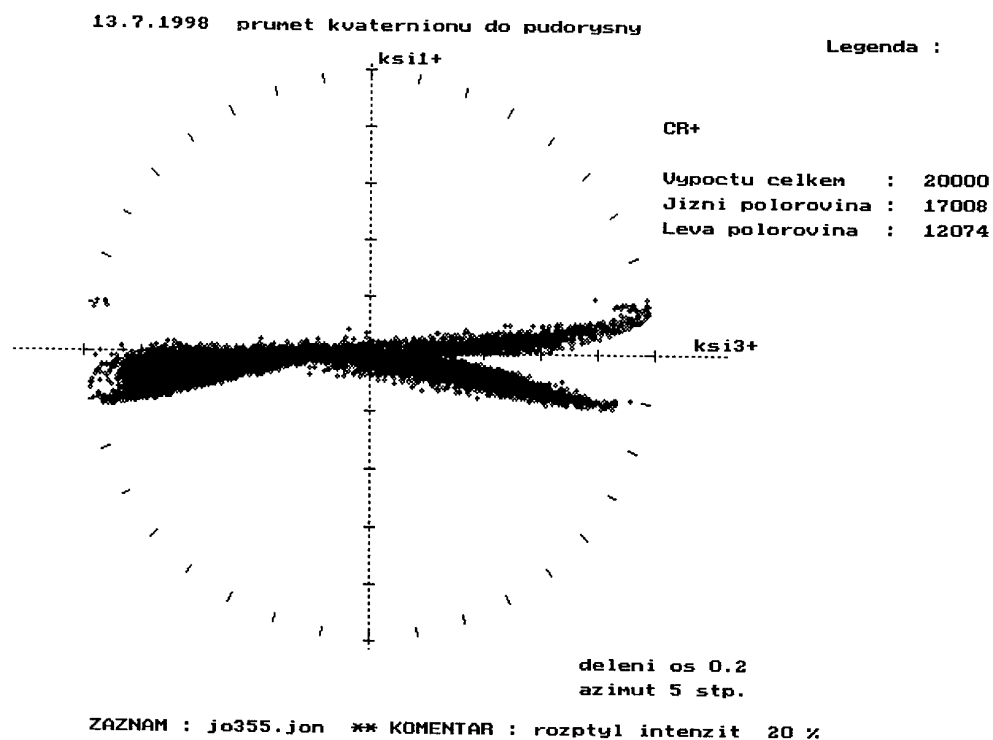


Fig.1 Scattering pattern for $\xi_0 \approx 0.82$, $\xi_1 \approx 0.007$,

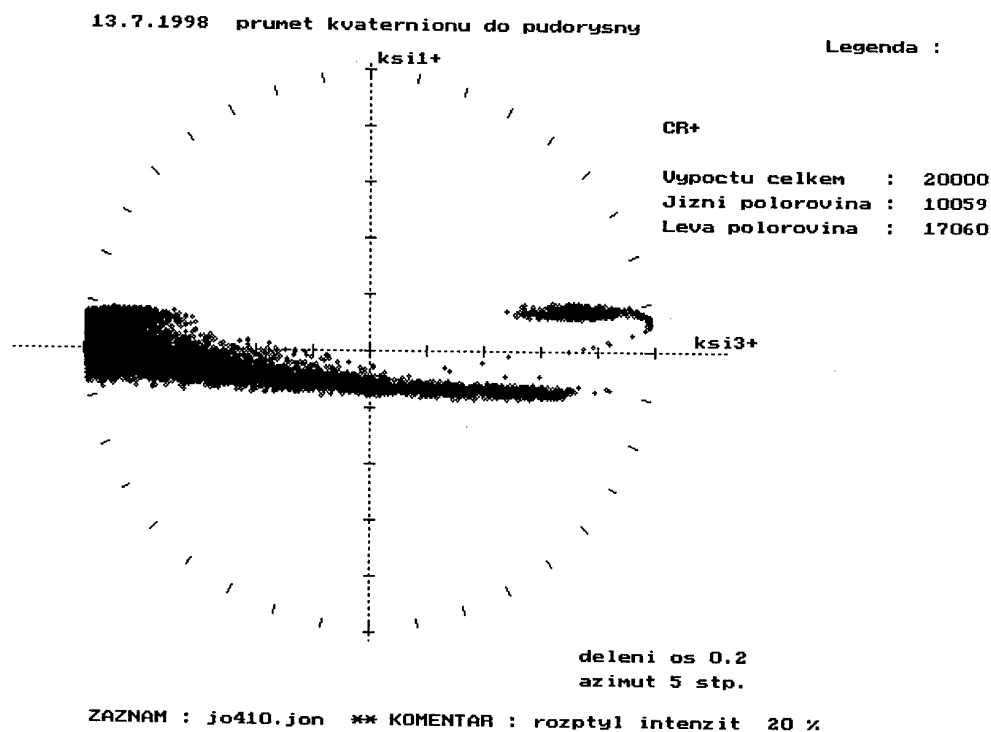


Fig.2 Scattering pattern for $\rho \approx 0.91$, $\xi_1 \approx 0$, $\Delta V \approx 185^\circ$

Sensitivity of Silica Optical Fibers Coated with ORMOCER®s to Hydrocarbons and to Water

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Materials based on organically modified siloxanes, ORMOCER®s (Trademark of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. in Germany), have already been used as coatings, bulk or composite materials in electronics, medicine, food industry etc. They are also applied in optoelectronics as matrices with low optical losses or protective and active coatings. UV-curable ORMOCER®s have been applied on optical waveguides as coatings and sensitivity of these materials to gases and organic solvents has been observed [1],[2]. This paper deals with the experimental and theoretical study of the sensitivity of silica optical fibers coated with UV-curable ORMOCER®s to water and to hydrocarbons with the aim of finding ways for employing these materials for the detection of hydrocarbon pollution in water.

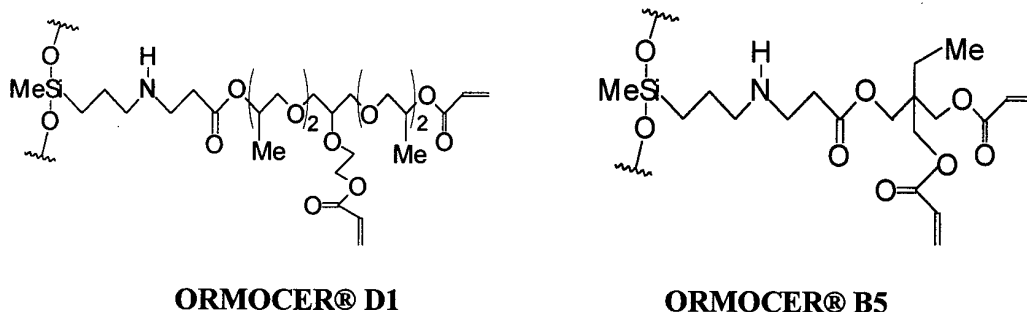


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of two ORMOCER samples

Several types of ORMOCER®s with typical chemical structures shown in Fig. 1 have been investigated. These materials were continuously applied on silica optical fibers during the fiber drawing process. Fibers with a silica part diameter of 0.4 mm and an ORMOCER® layer thickness of about 10 µm were drawn. In immersing experiments, fiber segments were brought into contact with water, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons in a cell and the output power from the fiber was measured. Both spectral and temporal changes of the output power induced by the tested chemicals similar to those in Fig. 2 will be shown in the poster.

A theoretical model based on ray optics has been developed. In this model only changes of the refractive indices of the ORMOCER® coatings and immersing chemicals are taken into account as basic parameters. Calculated relationships between the output optical power and these basic parameters will be shown. These theoretical curves are used for the explanation of experimental data and for the estimation of the refractive index of the ORMOCER® layers.

The interaction of ORMOCER® materials with the chemicals is accounted for by using the partition coefficients. Approaches for estimating the values of partition coefficients of the tested materials from

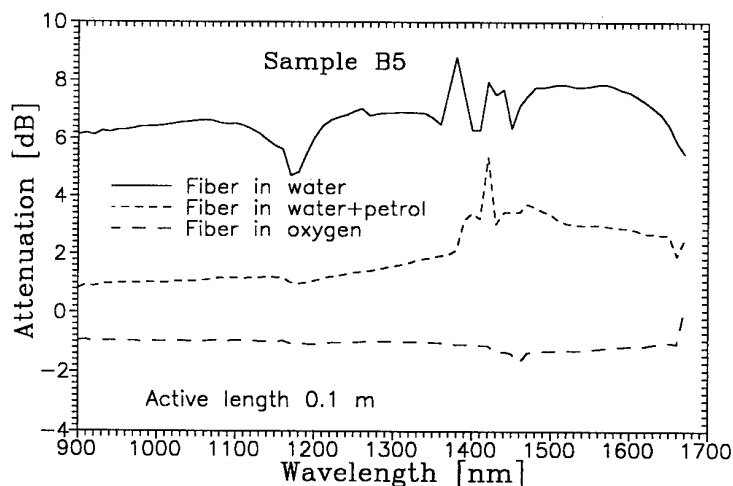


Fig. 2. Spectral changes of the output optical power from a fiber coated with ORMOCER B5 induced by immersing in chemicals

experiments will be shown as well as the measured values. For explaining these values, the contact angles or wetting energies of ORMOCER®s and liquid chemicals have been measured and will be given. All these data show that by changing the chemical structure of ORMOCER®s their hydrophobicity can be tailored.

This work was supported by the European Community under contract No. CIPA-CT94-0140 and by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contract No. 102/98/1358.

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Non-Contact Laser Sensors for Measuring Angular Displacement Based on Light Reflection from a Spiral Filter

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Spiral phase plates are optical spatial filters that are able to form helical wavefronts [1]. This kind of wavefront has one or more singular points (point dislocations) named in optics optical vortices. The optical vortex is a ray around which the phase changes in this case for example linearly. On concentric circles of various radii with centres in the vortex, the same phase function is distributed. This means that a rotational wedge is formed. The beginning and the end of the distribution lie on one straight line starting in the centre. This line represents the jump from the beginning phase to the end phase and it is advantageous if it is integer multiple of 2π . In this contribution the spiral phase filter with only one singular point is considered (Fig.1).

There are several methods how to fabricate a spiral phase plate. In our case the filter was prepared in a photoresist layer illuminated by UV light with the angular gradient and properly developed. The procedure of illumination is based on rotation of the sample masked by a fixed and rotated half-plane opaque metallic screens which is realized in three steps [2]. After development, or strictly speaking etching, the rotational wedge phase filter arises. Using common photoresist (AZ 1350 JSF) as the photosensitive layer, developer (AZ 303) as the etching agent, 200W mercury lamp for illumination, and rotation rate of the sample at 360° per two minutes, one can obtain the wedge phase jump of the order 2π for HeNe laser light.

If the step at the end of the wedge is denoted as Δd_{\max} , the phase jump after light transmission of light through the end will be $\Delta\phi_{\max}^t = (2\pi/\lambda_k)(n-1)\Delta d_{\max}$, where n is the

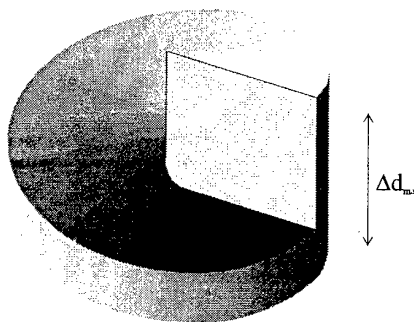


Fig. 1

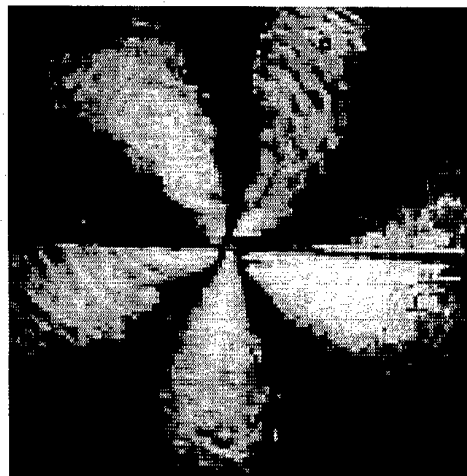
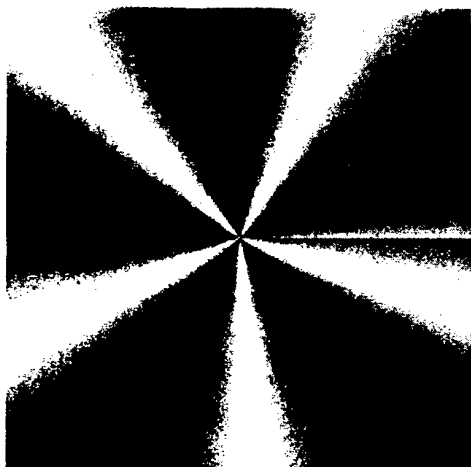


Fig. 2

index of refraction of the wedge material. In order to obtain $k.2\pi$ jump, Δd_{\max} must be equal to $\Delta d_{\max} = k\lambda_k / (n-1)$. For the reflection, the phase jump will be $\Delta\varphi_{\max}^r = (2\pi/\lambda_j)2n\Delta d_{\max}$, where generally a different wavelength is supposed. If similarly this expression should be equal to $j.2\pi$, and if we wish to calculate which order j of the interference pattern in reflection arises, we obtain $j = (2nk) / (n-1)(\lambda_k / \lambda_j)$. For $k = 1$, $\lambda_k = \lambda_j$, and $n \approx 1.6$ the order j of the interference will be $j \approx 5$.

The samples of the phase filter of this kind with the parameter above have been fabricated. The interference pattern in reflection must have fringes in the radial direction while the number of fringes is five. The interferogram experimentally obtained is in Fig. 2

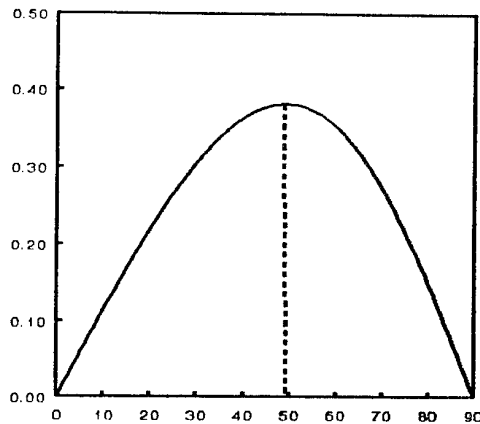


Fig. 3

together with the computer simulated result. Unlike the ideal form of the interference pattern the fabricated sample has slightly curved form because the surface of the photoresist layer is not ideally planar and the thickness of the layer increases slightly with the diameter.

Radial fringes of the reflection interferogram are located in angles according to the direction of incidence of the inspection beam. If a ray impinges on the layer, on which the interference pattern is studied, under the angle of incidence α and the ray propagates in the layer with the index of refraction n under the angle α' , the path difference δ between the beams reflected on the upper and lower boundary is given

by the expression $\delta = 2d \cos \alpha'$. After differentiation of the last expression and back introduction of the angle of incidence α , one can obtain the dependence of the path difference increment $d\delta$ on the increment of the angle $d\alpha$

$$d\delta = -2d \frac{\sin \alpha}{n} \frac{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \alpha}}{\sqrt{n^2 - \sin^2 \alpha}} d\alpha$$

The core function on the right side of the last equation has the form $\sin \alpha \cos \alpha / (n^2 - \sin^2 \alpha)^{1/2}$, and it determines a coefficient for transmission of the angular displacement of the phase plate on the increment of the rotation angle of the radial fringes interferogram. This coefficient is plotted in Fig. 3 from where it can be seen that for small angular displacements around the perpendicular incidence the measurement can be treated as linear. For instance, the accuracy 1.5% can be achieved within limits of $\pm 10^\circ$, and for the accuracy 5.5% the limits are $\pm 20^\circ$.

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Optical Waveguides in Erbium Doped Lithium Niobate: Moderate Temperature Approaches

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Trivalent erbium doped single crystal lithium niobate has attracted much attention as one of the most promising materials for applications in planar optical amplifiers and waveguide laser. The doping with erbium ions is standardly done during growth of the bulk crystals or by localized doping into the substrate surfaces, *i.e.* diffusion from erbium metal thin film evaporated onto the substrates surfaces, and by implantation of Er^{3+} ions. Though the both kind of the standard approaches give very good results, they are high-temperature and energy consuming ones.

We have developed a novel technological procedure which allows for fabrication of erbium doped optical waveguides at temperatures which does not exceed 400 °C. The process consists of several steps. The first step is a localized doping of the X-, Y- and Z-cut lithium niobate wafers from a reaction melt of nitrates, which contains 10 wt. % of erbium salt. The doping is performed at 350 °C. Necessary degree of the doping is achieved after 5 hs of the diffusion. Under these conditions the in-diffused erbium content is localised in a very thin layer about 200 nm, however, it can be diffused deeper by subsequent

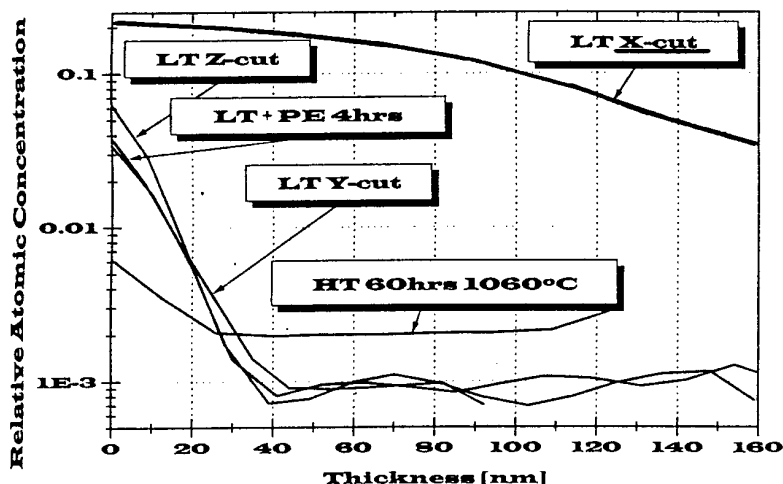


Fig. 1. Er^{3+} concentration depth profiles (RBS) for low temperature doped X-, Y- and Z-cuts of lithium niobate (see text) in comparison with high-temperature indiffused erbium (from evaporated thin metal film onto X-cut surface) concentration depth profile

annealing at 350 °C in ambient atmosphere. Using the reported approach concentrations of the indiffused erbium, as measured by RBS, were found to be up to 0.5 wt. % in the Y- and Z-cuts, but they can go easily up to 10 wt. % in the X-cut samples (Fig.1.). Strong anisotropy of the results of the doping can be explained in terms of various wettability as well as surface density of the particular crystallographic orientations of the cuts.

All the erbium doped wafers exhibited waveguiding properties at 633 nm. The "erbium" waveguides were very deep (up to 9 μm) and supported one (Z-cut) and two or three (X- and Y-cuts, resp.) modes with total Δn_e going up to + 0.005. Annealed proton exchange of the erbium doped samples, when performed in Li-containing adipic acid, resulted in fabrication of APE waveguides without any damage of the samples surfaces.

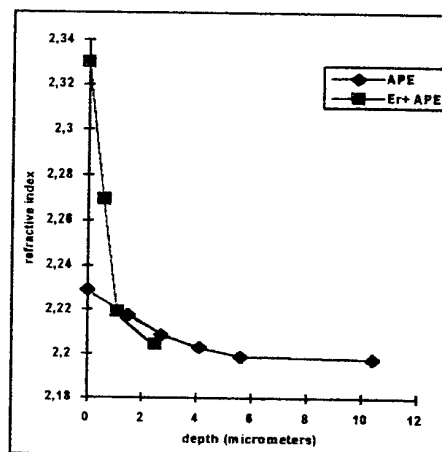


Fig. 2. Comparison of the extraordinary refractive index profiles of "erbium" and Er:APE waveguides in the X-cut. (APE: PE 1 hr, 213 °C; A 1 hr, 350 °C, adipic acid cont. 0.5 mol % of Li-adipate)

This research has been carried out with support of both the International Atomic Energy Agency Co-ordinated Research Programme (Project CZE 10031) and the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (Contract 102/96/1243)

Application of a Liquid Core Waveguide for Early Detection of PCB's

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Abstract

A hollow, Teflon coated glass capillary is capable of guiding light in its water filled core representing a liquid core waveguide (LCW). This device represents an efficient tool for the early detection of colour changes during the biodegradation of PCB's.

For the detection of low concentrations of pollutants the hollow core or capillary systems appear quite attractive. The test gas or liquid flows through the hollow core and the capillary transmits or guides the optical power. A long interaction length between the light and the measurand is responsible for the low detection limits. In this paper a Teflon coated capillary is used for the analysis of an aqueous solution in the spectral range $360\text{nm} \leq \lambda \leq 750\text{nm}$. In this investigation the light is guided in a water core, forming a liquid core waveguide (LCW).

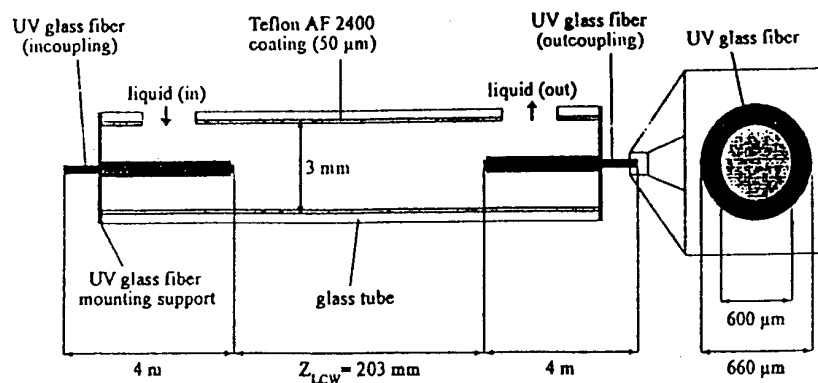


Fig. 1: Schematic of the LCW configuration

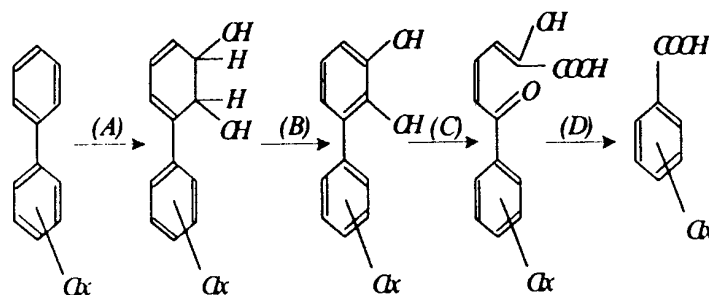


Fig. 2: Formation of the yellow intermediate

The analyzed compound is a yellow intermediate which is formed during the biodegradation of PCB's. In an aerobic bioreactor with immobilized cells *Pseudomonas* species 2 the mixture of PCB's with the commercial name "D 103" is investigated. The assumed reaction is shown in Fig. 2.

The aqueous solution is pumped through the LCW (Fig. 1: "liquid in", "- out"). Using a fiber optic spectrometer we have compared the spectroscopic results using a standard 1cm optical cell with a 20.7cm long LCW for series of diluted solutions containing the yellow intermediate. The results are shown in Fig. 3. For the same concentration both absorption spectra are plotted for comparison. In the inset of Fig. 3 the absorption at 397nm is plotted as a function of the concentration of the yellow intermediate for both types of optical cell. The LCW clearly allows the detection of lower concentrations.

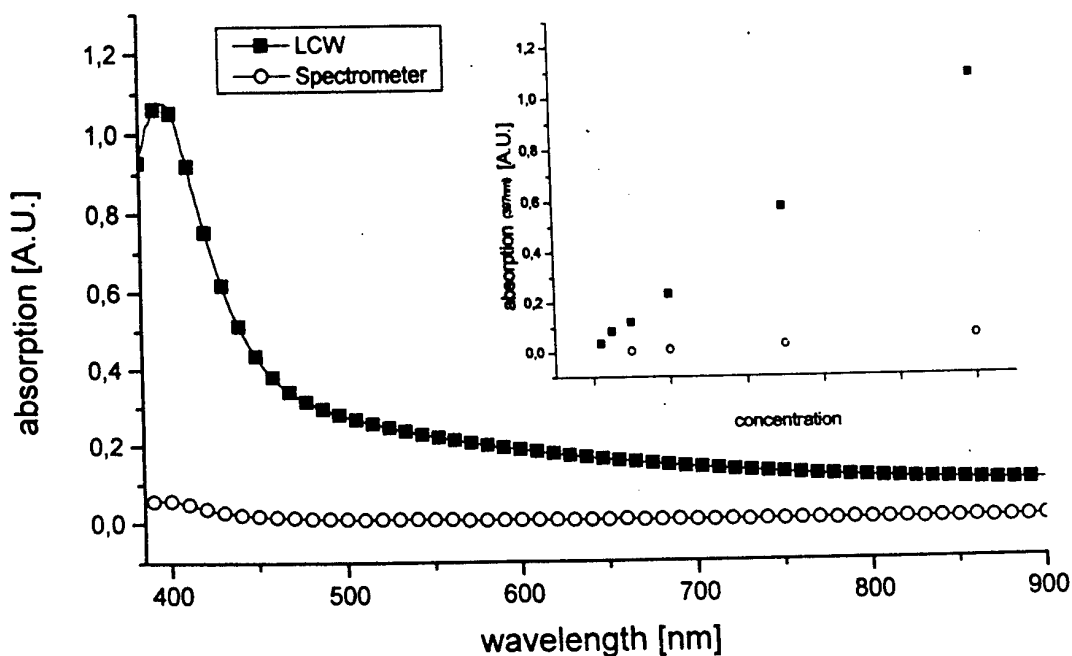


Fig. 3: Comparison of an absorption spectrum of an aqueous solution of the yellow intermediate using a 1cm optical cell (spectrometer) or the LCW cell

NIR Dyes as Sensing Agents for Ammonia

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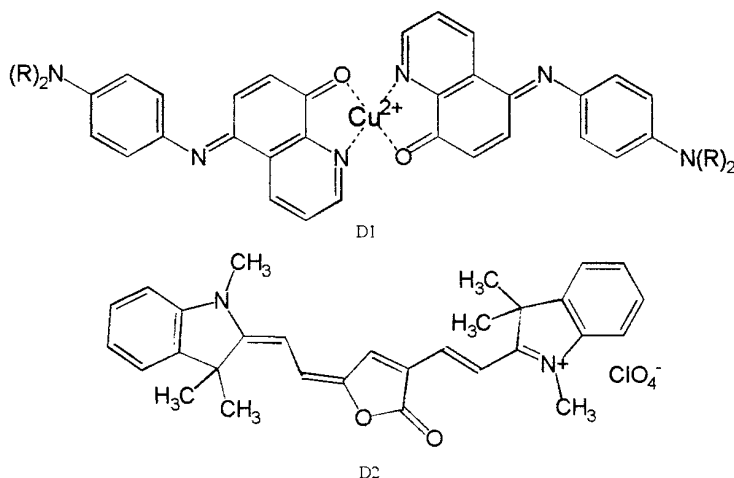
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Photometric devices using a chemical transducer in the form of solid matrix-supported dyes represent a promising class of instruments for gas monitoring over a wide range of concentrations. Dyes absorbing in the region 700-900 nm are of particular importance for the development of distributed sensors since the absorbance of most tested materials is minimal in this region and does not interfere with the absorbance of a NIR chromophore. Furthermore, the absorption wavelength of the dyes matches to the emission wavelength of laser diodes and the optical transmission window of communication fibres.

Recently, several attempts have been made to develop sensors for ammonia sensing in the visible region both in gas and liquid phases [1-6]. A synthesis and testing of the dyes sensitive to ammonia in the NIR region has been published recently [7-9]. This contribution reviews two dyes found to be most suitable for the detection of ammonia in gaseous mixtures:

- (i) Cu(II) complex of 5-(N'-diethylamino-phenylimino)quinolin-8-one (dye D1), synthesis carried out according to Kubo et al. [10];
- (ii) 1,1,3-methyl-2-[[{1,1,3-methyl-2(1H,3H)-indolylidene-1-propenyl}]-5-oxo-2-furfurylidene-(3H)-indolium perchlorate (dye D2), synthesised according to [9].

The structures of the dyes are given in the following figure:



For the measurement of absorbance in the region 400 - 940 nm, the Ocean Optics CCD array spectrometer S1000 has been used.

The absorption maximum of the dye D1 before ammonia attack is 738 nm. The reaction of D1 with ammonia obviously results in evolution of the free ligand since its peak at 618 nm appears. Ammonia is obviously a stronger donor of free electron pair than the ligand is and, consequently, ammonia substitutes the ligand in the ligand sphere of the complex. After exposure of the dye to ammonia has been concluded, the peak of the Cu(II) complex recovers which shows that D1 is reversible to ammonia.

D2 exhibits an absorption maximum at 726 nm. The interaction of the dye D2 with ammonia results in the decrease of this absorption peak and a formation of a peak at 498 nm. The decrease in wavelength is apparently brought about by the breakdown of the conjugation of polyenic cation by ammonia. The interaction with ammonia is reversible.

It can be concluded that the most promising NIR dyes for ammonia sensing seem to be metal complexes of nitrogen-containing ligands and polymethine dyes. We hope that these types of dyes enable the development of a distributed ammonia sensor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The financial support *via* the grants COPERNICUS CIPA-CT94-0206, INCO COPERNICUS ERBIC15CT0819 and the grant of Slovak Ministry of Education No.609 is greatly acknowledged.

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Fiber Optic Surface Plasmon Resonance Biosensor

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Within the last decade miniaturization of surface plasmon resonance (SPR) sensing devices has received a great deal of attention and various SPR sensors using optical waveguides have been reported.

We report a highly miniaturized SPR sensing device based on a single-mode optical fiber. This SPR sensing structure is based on a standard single-mode optical fiber. Its cladding is locally removed to get access to the evanescent field of a guided mode and this area is coated with a thin gold film which may support a surface plasma wave (SPW). The guided mode propagates in the fiber and excites the SPW at the outer interface of the gold layer if the two modes are closely phase-matched [1]. The propagation constant of the SPW depends dramatically on a spatial profile of refractive index of the medium adjacent to the gold film. Therefore changes in the spatial profile of refractive index of medium adjacent to the gold surface cause mismatch of the two modes. As SPW is highly attenuated, the mismatch results in changes in the fiber mode attenuation. Consequently, variations in the spatial profile of refractive index can be sensitively detected by monitoring changes in the output power.

Theoretical analysis and of the SPR sensing structure based on the equivalent planar waveguide approach and the mode expansion and propagation method has been carried out. Design parameters of the sensing structures has been optimized to maximize the sensor sensitivity and resolution.

Laboratory prototypes of fiber optic sensors were fabricated. A part of a single-mode fiber cladding was removed by polishing. An adhesion chromium layer, a thin surface plasmon active gold layer and a tantalum pentoxide tuning overlayer [2] were deposited by vacuum evaporation. In order to characterize the developed sensing device, the sensor was applied to measurement of variations in the refractive index. We measured changes in the output optical power induced by variations in the refractive index of analyte simulated by liquids with known refractive indices. The average sensitivity of the developed SPR fiber sensor was determined to be about 2600 dB/RIU (RIU - refractive index unit). In conjunction with an optoelectronic system which can measure changes in the optical power of 0,5 per cent, the sensor is capable of resolving variations in the refractive index as small as 10^{-5} .

In order to demonstrate the ability of the developed SPR sensing device to perform real-time biosensor analysis a network of monoclonal antibodies against horse radish peroxidase (HRP) was immobilized on the sensor surface by the covalent crosslinking of two molecular layers of antibodies prepared using the consecutive adsorption [3]. Then the interaction between horse

radish peroxidase in 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) solution and immobilized antibodies was monitored.

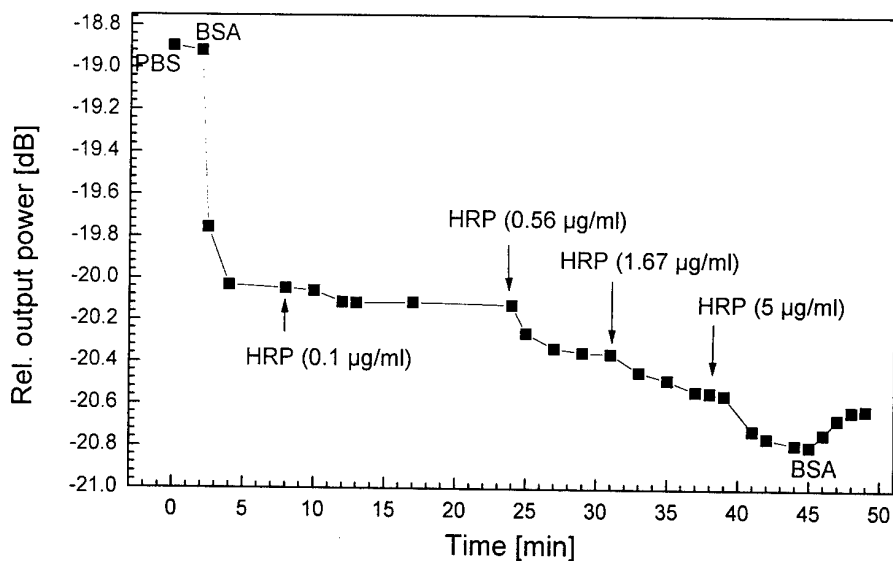


Fig. HRP binding. Response of the sensor to increasing concentrations of HRP molecules.

The realized prototype of the sensor has been demonstrated to be able to detect HPR in concentration of 100 ng/ml. The ultimate sensor detection limit for HRP determined by the sensor system noise (0.5 per cent of optical power) was found to be 30 ng/ml. The presented concept of SPR optical fiber sensing devices may be of interest in numerous areas in which remote, sensitive detection in microvolumes of chemical and biological media is desirable including *in vivo* applications.

Acknowledgement

Authors would like to acknowledge support of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contracts 102/96/1561 and 303/96/1358.

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Detection of Refractive-Index Changes by Means of Optical Fibers Coated with Dried Gel Layers

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Changes of optical properties of dried-gel layers prepared by the sol-gel method have already been investigated as a basis for chemical detection [1]-[3]. Refractive-index changes induced by gases and vapours in porous silica layers [2] or in silica layers doped with TiOTi chains [3] have been detected by means of silica optical fibers used as substrates for these layers. This poster deals with the detection of refractive-index changes of liquid chemicals containing OH groups and gaseous hydrocarbons by means of dried-gel silica layers doped with TiOTi

chains and coated on silica optical fibers.

Layers composed of dried gel silica doped with TiOTi chains were prepared by the sol-gel method using alkoxides as raw materials. Acetylacetone and/or methoxyethanol were used as modifiers in the preparation of input sols.

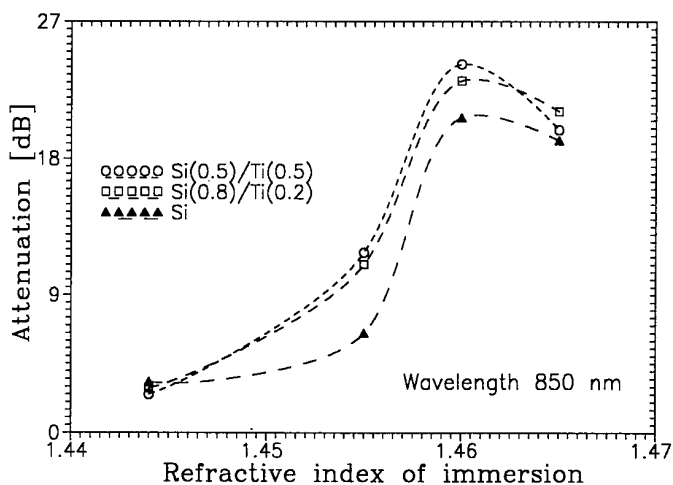


Fig. 1. Changes of the output optical power due to immersing gel layers with different content of TiOTi chains in mixtures of butanol and benzylalcohol

The sols were applied onto silica optical fiber substrates (diameter of 0.4 mm) by the multiple dip-coating technique. The highest heat-treatment temperature of the prepared gel layers was 70°C.

The sensitivity of the prepared layers to refractive-index changes was investigated in immersing experiments when the fibers with the gel layers were brought into contact with liquid or gaseous chemicals and the output optical power was measured. Changes of the output optical

power (see Fig. 1), time response curves and angular distributions of the output power (see Fig. 2) were measured and will be shown.

A theoretical ray-optic model has been developed which takes into account refractive indices of the gel layers and of immersing chemicals as basic parameters. The relationship between the output optical power and these basic parameters will be shown on the basis of calculated results. These curves have been used for the explanation of experimental results and the estimation of refractive indices of the prepared gel layers from experimental data.

Using these estimated values of refractive indices of the layers the partition

coefficients, accounting for the interaction of gel materials and chemicals, were calculated and will be given. The calculated parameters show a marked effect of the modifiers.

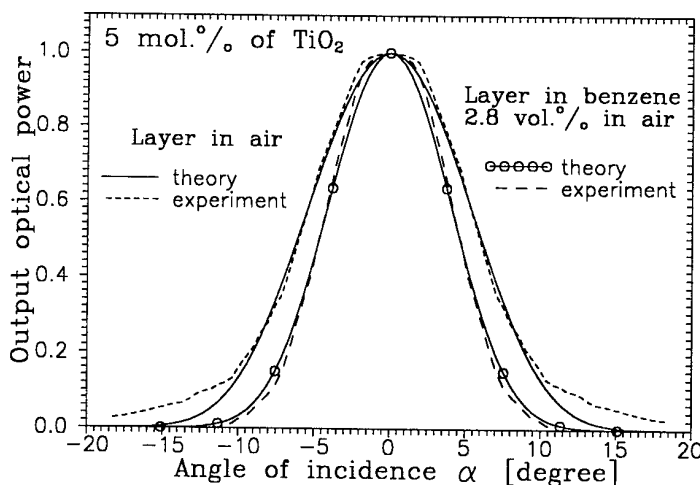


Fig. 2. Angular distributions of the output optical power and their changes due to contact with gaseous benzene

This work was financially supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under contract No. 102/98/1358 and by a joint French-Czech project Barrande 98.

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Tailoring of Lithium vs. Extraordinary Refractive Index Relationship in Proton Exchanged LiNbO₃ Slab Waveguides

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Proton exchange (PE) and annealed proton exchange (APE) in lithium niobate (LiNbO₃) is an attractive technique for formation of low loss optical waveguides with substantially restored electrooptic coefficient. The waveguides can be used in various devices for harnessing and distribution of optical radiation, sensors and optical amplifiers. The realization of these devices depends largely upon the substantial increase in the extraordinary refractive indices (n_e) of the waveguides produced by proton exchange process (up to + 0.12 at $\lambda = 633$ nm).

Proton exchange fabrication procedure consists of two steps. The first step, proton exchange (PE), occurs after immersing a lithium niobate wafer into a reaction melt of appropriate proton source and results in replacement of lithium ions from the substrate surface for hydrogen ions from the melt. For obtaining stable waveguides with almost completely restored electrooptic coefficient the second fabrication step, annealing (A) is necessary.

A very important issue for tailoring of APE waveguides parameters is the exact composition within the exchanged region and its behaviour with changing fabrication conditions. In order to resolve this issue a better understanding of lithium atoms distributions in the waveguides is necessary.

We present results of our study of relations between lithium atoms depth profiles and extraordinary refractive index depth profiles of proton exchanged and annealed proton exchanged waveguides fabricated from reaction melts of adipic acid which was used either pure or contained small amounts of lithium adipate (0.5 - 1.5 mol %). Temperature of the melt was kept at 213 °C and the proton exchange times ranged from 30 min. to 6 hr. Annealing occurred in ambient atmosphere at 350 °C for, typically, 1 h. The waveguides were optically characterized using prism coupling method at 633 nm and the measured data processing was done by standardly used inverse WKB approximation, which resulted in extraordinary refractive index (n_e) depth profiles. Lithium concentration (c_{Li}) depth profiles were monitored using neutron depth profiling (NDP) method, which is based on a reaction ${}^6\text{Li} (n, \alpha) {}^3\text{H}$. The samples were irradiated with thermal neutron beam from a 6m long neutron guide and the charged reaction products were recorded by means of Si(Au) surface barrier detectors. This non-destructive method enabled us to characterize a large amount of samples.

A typical example of the relations between n_e and c_{Li} is given in the Fig.1, where are illustrated n_e and c_{Li} depth profiles of an as-exchange and post-exchange annealed X-cut. Both profiles of the as-exchanged sample are of a step-like shape. The character of the both

shapes is profoundly changed by annealing, indicating a strong correlation between the optical properties and distribution of lithium in the waveguiding layers.

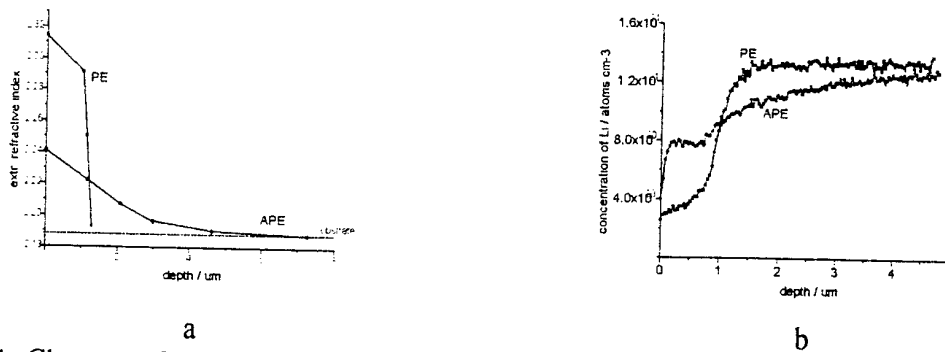


Fig. 1: Changes of the n_e (a) and c_{Li} (b) depth profiles in the as-exchanged (PE) and post-exchanged annealed (APE) waveguides in the X-cut. (PE: 4 hs, adipic acid contg. 0.5 mol.% of Li-adipate, A: 1h)

An influence of structural effects on optical properties of the waveguides is obvious in the Fig. 2, where are presented n_e vs. c_{Li} relationships for a series of APE X-cuts. According to the shapes of the dependences the waveguides form two classes: while the a-f waveguides belong mostly to the structural phase α , remaining two waveguides consist of a mixture of the phases.

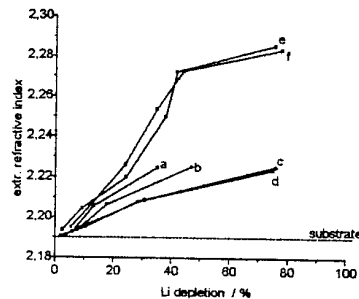


Fig. 2: Relationships between Δn_e and depletion of lithium for a series of APE waveguides in the X-cuts, which differed by the proton-exchange times. (PE: (a) 0.5 h, (b) 1.0 h, (c) 1.5 h, (d) 2.5 h, (e) 2.5 h and (f) 3.0 h, adipic acid contg 0.5 mol.% of Li- adipate; A: 1 h)

It is known, that APE process can be controled so that the waveguides can reach the single phase condition, now, the information on distribution of lithium ions within the waveguiding region can be used for tailoring of the waveguides properties with apriori given composition of the guiding layers.

This research has been carried out with support of both the International Atomic Energy Agency Co-ordinated Research Programme (Project CZE 10031) and the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (Contract 102/96/1610)

LIST OF CONTRIBUTED POSTERS OF THE 8TH VOW IN PRAGUE

G. Barkó, J. Hlavay

Development of a fiber optic humidity sensor

University of Veszprém, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Veszprém 8201
P.O.B. 158. HUNGARY

D. Berková, M. Chomát, V. Matějec, I. Kašík and Z. Berka

Detection of Liquid Hydrocarbons by Means of Sensing Modules Built of Bent PCS Optical Fibers

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Detection of Hydrogen Leakages Using a Fibre Optic Sensor for Aerospace Applications.

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Novel Optical Fibre Refractive Index Sensor Using a Specific Injection of Parallel Light Beam along the Axis.

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The Suppression of Non-Specific Response to Human Blood Plasma in SPR Sensor for Detection of β_2 -Microglobulin.

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Temperature Induced Light Switching Performed by Capillary Optical fiber

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A Novel Redox Switchable Fluorescence Probe

Highly Sensitive for the Copper (II) Cation

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Active optical waveguides: waveguide and physical parameters measurement

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Ch. Huber, T. Werner, I. Klimant, Ch. Krause and O. S. Wolfbeis

Luminescence Lifetime based Fiber Optic Ion Microsensors

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Molecule Detection with an Integrated Surface Plasmon Transducer

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Micromirror Driven by Electrostatic Actuation

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Carbon and Carbon Nitride Planar Waveguides on Silicon Substrates for Optical Sensors

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Characterization of Polymeric Coating Materials for Infrared Evanescent Wave Sensors

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Light Emitting Diodes as a Selective Detectors

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Distributed Fibre Optic Sensors for Detection and Localisation of Ammonia Leaks

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Department of General and Physical Chemistry
Janus Pannonius University, Pécs, Hungary

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Optical Fibres for Environmental Analysis of Seawater Pollutants
Institute of Analytical Chemistry, TU Wien, Wien, AUSTRIA

Bui Thi Thu Lan, K. Tóth nad I. Bitter
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**The Experimental Studies on Feasibility of the Fibre-Optic Aqueous Sensors
Based on Surface Plasmon Resonance on Silver Film**
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Characterization of Ormosils
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Analysis of Measurement Errors for JONES Matrix Elements of Optical Fibers
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Sensitivity of Silica Optical Fibers Coated with Ormocers to Hydrocarbons and to Water
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M. Miler, I.Koudela
**Non.Contact Laser Sensors for Measuring Angular Displacement Based on Light Reflection
from a Spiral Filter**
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Application of a Liquid Core Waveguide for Early Detection of PCB's

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NIR DYES AS SENSING AGENTS FOR AMMONIA

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Tayloring of Lithium vs. Extraordinary Refractive Index Relationship in Proton Exchanged LiNbO₃ Slab Waveguides

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LIST OF INVITED LECTURES OF THE 8TH VOW IN PRAGUE

Otto S. Wolfbeis, I. Klimant, B. König and A. Klimant

Optical Sensors for Microtiterplates

University of Regensburg, Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Chemo- and Biosensors, D-93040 Regensburg, Germany

Frank Bier, Frank Kleinjung, Kerstin Kröger

Sensitivity of Fluorescence Based Fibre Optic Hybridization Assays

Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Physiology, University of Potsdam
Im Biotechnologiepark, D - 14943 Luckenwalde, FRG

E. Brynda and M. Houska

Biosensors with surface immobilized protein networks.

Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
162 06 Prague 6, Czech Republic

F. L. Dickert, W. Greibl and M. Tortschanoff

Materials for Optrodes by Molecular Imprinting-solvent Vapour Detection and PAHs in Water

Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Vienna University, Vienna, Austria

G. Gauglitz

Optical detection methods and parallel screening

Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Institut für Physikalische und Theoretische Chemie, Auf der Morgenstelle 8, 72076 Tübingen

I. Klimant, G. Neuraüter, A. Stangelmeier and O.S. Wolfbeis

A new way to design self referenced fluorescence sensors

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Gerhard J. Mohr

Fluoro- and Chromoreactands. A New Class of Dyes for Optical Sensors

Centre for Chemical Sensors/ Biosensors and bioAnalytical Chemistry
ETH Technopark, Technoparkstrasse 1, CH-8005 Zürich

J. Bürck

NIR Evanescent-wave sensing of hydrocarbons based on polymer-clad optical waveguides

Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Institut für Instrumentelle Analytik (IFIA), P.O. Box 3640, D-76021-Karlsruhe, Germany

H. Gagnaire, A. Trouillet

SPR Sensing Using Multimode Fibers

University of Jean Monnet, France

J. Homola¹, S. S. Yee

Recent Development in SPR Sensing

Electrical Engineering Department, Box 352500, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA¹ on leave from Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics, Chaberská 57, CZ-18251 Prague, Czech Republic

B. Mizaikoff, M. Jakusch and M. Kraft

"EWALD" and "SOFIE"

Improvements and New Applications of IR Fiberoptic Sensors

Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Vienna University of Technology
Getreidemarkt 9/151, A-1060 Vienna/Austria

Kerstin Usbeck

An Optochemical Sensor Basing on Side-polished Fibre-Optic Bragg Gratings

Institut für Physikalische Hochtechnologie IPHT, Jena, Germany

K. Volka

Present Status of Utilization of Optical fibers in Analytical Chemistry in the Czech Republic

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